

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Highlights of the Year

- EuroMedLab, Innsbruck, Austria, June 7-11, 2009
- Inauguration of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry, Ibadan, Nigeria, October 25-28, 2009
- 12th ArabMedLab, Beirut, Lebanon, October 1-3, 2009
- Quality and Interpretation Workshop, Sri Lanka, March 2009
- 17th BCLF Meeting, Macedonia, September, 2009
- IFCC-EFCC Course on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, Supetar, Croatia, October 7-11, 2009
- The 9th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry " New Trends in classification, diagnosis and management of thyroid disease", Dubrovnik, Croatia, October 25-29, 2009
- Molecular Biology Course in Syria, December 2009
- IFCC-Abbott Distinguished Award for Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics was presented to Prof. Eleferios Diamandis during EuroMedLab in Innsbruck, Austria
- Roche/IFCC Travel Scholarship program
- A monograph "The Clinical Biochemist Reviews" published in collaboration with Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
- A monograph "Essentials of Clinical Laboratory Management in Developing Countries"
- 2nd ERM-DA470 (formerly 2nd Preparation CRM470) in collaboration with IRMM released with certification for 12 plasma proteins
- Abbott Laboratories' annual sponsorship for the IFCC VLP program
- IFCC Speakers Bureau
- IFCC promotional brochure in English, Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Greek, French, Japanese, Arabic and Russian
- Joint IFCC-"Labs are Vital™" campaign, sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics Laboratories
- IFCC Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Distance Learning Project (<http://www.siemenslearning.com/ifcc>)
- 5th WHO international standard for hCG
- The reference material ERM-DA457/IFCC for AST
- The reference material ERM-DA472/IFCC for C-reactive protein

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IFCC, DEC 31, 2009



Introduction

It is a pleasure to write this summary of the year 2009 on behalf of IFCC. My first year as President has been busy and enjoyable. I have been grateful for the warm welcome that I have received and encouraged by the

many experts who give freely of their time and expertise in the interests of improving the quality, delivery and relevance of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine on a worldwide basis. IFCC is in good health and 2009 was a year of progress and 'added value'.

Membership

IFCC now has its highest ever number of Full Members - 84. During 2009 we were delighted to welcome into membership the national societies from Peru, Ethiopia, Philippines and Algeria. We have produced a world map showing IFCC Full Members and this clearly shows the global impact of IFCC. Despite the ongoing consolidation in the diagnostics industry Corporate Membership of IFCC remains strong and we have been able to welcome Gentian AS, Sentinel CH SpA, Agappe Diagnostics Ltd and Sichuan Maker Biotechnology Co Ltd as new members in 2009.

A significant milestone in the history of IFCC was achieved in October 2009 with the launch of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) creating the fifth IFCC Regional Organization. Past President Jocelyn Hicks attended the launch and the inauguration of the first AFCC President Vanessa Steenkamp.

Strategic Plan

At its first meeting of the year the Executive Board developed a detailed Strategic Plan for its three year period of office. Building on the priorities identified by the previous Board a total of 26 Action Points were agreed. The full plan is available from the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org) but the main themes of the Strategic Plan are:

- Greater accountability to Members
- Improved internal and external communication
- Promotion of the 'added value' of laboratory medicine to healthcare
- Enhanced international clinical collaboration
- Education and management support to developing countries
- An international voice for young scientists
- Sharing examples of good laboratory practice

Progress with the Strategic Plan is monitored at each Board meeting - and we are on track to complete the programme.

'Added Value'

It is now well established that laboratory medicine results inform ~70% of clinical decisions. This puts laboratory medicine as one of the key clinical services at the centre of healthcare. With such a central role comes responsibility. For many years IFCC has been at the forefront of developing the quality agenda for laboratory medicine and considerable progress has been made with quality control, quality assurance, quality management and the standardisation of methods. This work needs to continue. In addition, however, laboratory medicine specialists have a responsibility to add value to the data generated by their laboratories. This means taking a leading role in managing the knowledge that we generate. Examples of adding value include:

- Influencing clinical decisions and patient management
- Working at the clinical interface in multidisciplinary teams that decide national and local policy and investigative procedures
- Promoting and practicing evidence based medicine
- Harmonising practice in the interests of improved patient safety
- Sharing examples of good laboratory medicine practice
- Performing regular clinical audit to assess the value of the service to the user
- Adopting active public relations campaigns to promote the contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare to wider audiences including politicians, the media and the public

These are significant challenges for laboratory medicine specialists and for our partners in the diagnostics industry but we must realise that no-one else is going to do this on our behalf. We are the architects of our own destiny. IFCC is giving a lead but 'added value' will be most effective at local level. This something for which we are all responsible - why don't you join the 'added value' movement?

Milestones of Progress

The most significant work of IFCC takes place in its Divisions, Committees and Working Groups. This annual report contains many excellent examples and I urge you to read these. I am impressed that successive emails that I receive may relate to high level scientific endeavour with the World Health Organization or the United Nations or an education and management course to improve laboratory medicine quality in an emerging nation. After a difficult couple of years the IFCC website was transformed during 2009 and represents the main organ for communication to and from IFCC.

As part of its Strategic Plan the Executive Board initiated new projects during 2009 and it will be fascinating to see how they perform in 2010.

These new projects include:

- Task Force for International Clinical Liaison
- Task Force for Young Scientists
- Integrated Project on the Reporting of HbA1c
- Working Group on Allowable Errors for Traceable Results
- Working Group on Quality Specifications for Glucose POCT
- Working Group for Harmonization of Autoantibody tests

Congresses and Conferences

Congresses and conferences are an essential part of the work of IFCC. Not only do they provide an opportunity to update our scientific and clinical knowledge, skills and experience but they also provide a great forum to meet and make friends and to build long lasting professional networks. During 2009 three of the IFCC Regional Organizations held successful congresses: Europe EuroMedLab in Innsbruck, Arab Federation Congress in Beirut, African Federation Inaugural Congress in Ibadan.

Financial Challenge

The years 2008 and 2009 will long be remembered as the years of the global recession and as the Treasurer reports IFCC has not been able to escape the impact. Several factors have contributed to two difficult years. These include consolidation in the diagnostics industry, losses on investments and uncertainty of exchange rates. In 2009 IFCC had to trim back on some programmes that it would like to do and we will certainly have to do the same in 2010.

Personal Reflections

During 2009 my role as President involved:

- Receiving and dealing with 12,000 emails
- Establishing an email address book with >200 IFCC contacts
- Attending three Executive Board and three Division Executive Committee Meetings
- Attending Regional Congresses in Innsbruck and Beirut
- Representing IFCC at 15 conferences and other meetings on five continents and travelling almost 100,000km in the process
- Writing countless letters, position papers, documents and reports.

So it has been a very busy year but with the exception of the airport check-in desks and security I have enjoyed the experience.

Thanks

I wish to thank my predecessor, Jocelyn Hicks, who has been supportive and a constant source of knowledge and advice during my first year. The Executive Board and the Chairs of Divisions have been harmonious and industrious colleagues and the staff in the IFCC Office in Milan have worked tirelessly during a difficult year of change. Paivi Laitinen, in her capacity as Honorary Secretary has been responsible for the production of this Annual Report and so much more. Lastly, I must thank my long suffering wife Judith who saw much less of me in 2009 than she expected or deserved.

And Finally

It is a privilege to serve as President of IFCC and I am impressed beyond words by the skill, expertise, experience and commitment of the many hundreds of laboratory medicine professionals that I have met working in hospitals and in the diagnostics industry. There are tens of thousands of others doing the same job at local and national level. Laboratory medicine specialists are genuinely 'nice' people with a high level of professionalism who embrace team working in the interests of serving patients and the public. If we have a fault it is that we are too modest about our achievements - perhaps we can all do something about that in 2010?

Graham Beastall
IFCC President

EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB)

The term of the present Executive Board started in the beginning of 2009. The newly elected Executive Members attended the last meeting of the previous Executive Board in November to learn some of the activities Executive Board is dealing with. The first meeting of the year was held in Windsor, UK on March 1-2, 2009. The second meeting was held prior the EuroMedLab 2009 in Innsbruck on June 6-7, 2009. The budget meeting of the year was traditionally held in Milan, Italy on November 14-16, 2009. All the Division Chairs also attend the budget meeting and present the work of their respective Division and its budget proposal for the next year.

IFCC gained several new members during the year. Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association (EMLA), Peruvian Association of Clinical Laboratory Professionals, Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET), The National Association of Medical Analysis Laboratories (ALAM) were approved unanimously as new Full Members by the IFCC membership via a mail ballot. At the end of 2009 the IFCC had thus 84 Full Members. We also gained four new Corporate Members (Gentian AS, Sentinel CH SpA, Agappe Diagnostics Ltd, Sichuan Maker Biotechnology Co Ltd). They are warmly welcomed into the Federation. A new Regional Federation, namely the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry was launched in 2009.

The Executive Board has outlined a Strategic Plan for the three-year term. The main focus will be on public relations and promoting clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine among health care professionals as well as the public. One of the tools to achieve these goals is the website which will be improved and updated online. I invite you to visit the website (www.ifcc.org) where you will find information on the IFCC activities, forthcoming congresses and conferences, IFCC Newsletters and eJIFCC. The joint IFCC-"Labs are Vital™" campaign, sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics Laboratories, is also an important tool in promoting laboratory medicine and the campaign has been present in major congresses and conferences during the year.

A letter was sent to National Societies of the Full Members requesting for their annual reports. 53 reports were received to be included in the IFCC Annual Report 2009, which is available on the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org). The full detailed annual reports of the Divisions' as well as Task Forces' activities are included in the IFCC Annual Report. Regional Federations are essential part of the IFCC and they also give their annual reports to be part of the IFCC Annual Report. Please, visit the website to know more of IFCC.

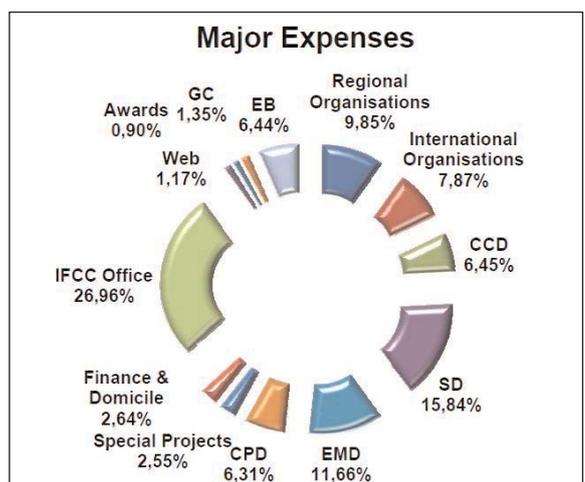
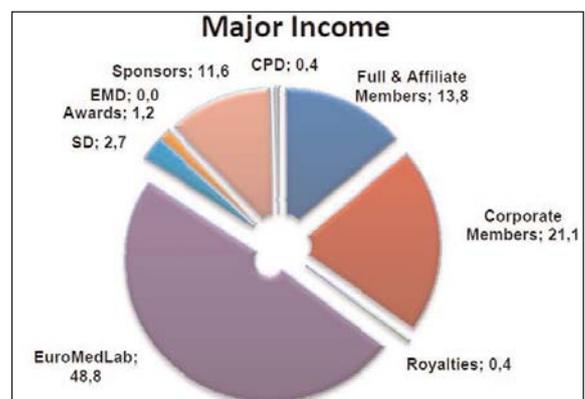
Päivi Laitinen
Secretary

TREASURER

After two years of unsatisfactory performance of IFCC assets due to the International Financial Crisis which hit almost all aspects of finance in Europe and USA, the performance of the assets started to improve to end up with 13.3% at the end of 2009. Although the profit made during 2009 is remarkable in comparison with 2007 & 2008, we are still far behind to gain all our losses during the previous years. The EuroMedLab in Innsbruck was another financial success with sizeable income for the organisers and for IFCC. The Executive Board of the IFCC has anticipated some financial difficulties in 2010 due to increase expenditure for the General Conference and shortage of income as no major conferences will be held in 2010. In addition many corporate members are still recovering from the financial crisis of 2007 & 2008. The Executive Board has requested all Division and Committee Chairs to minimise their expenses in 2010 to the minimum.

The IFCC Treasurer is handling the reimbursement of EFCC officers through the IFCC office. The reimbursements are paid from special IFCC budget line allocated to cover the expenses of the scientific activities of the EFCC. The annual dues of EFCC members, which are collected by EFCC, are transferred to EFCC special subaccount under the umbrella of IFCC accounts.

With the valuable help and assistance of IFCC office we were able to secure the payment of the annual dues of Full, Affiliate and Corporate Members for 2009. Below is a diagram showing the percentage of the major income of IFCC during 2009.



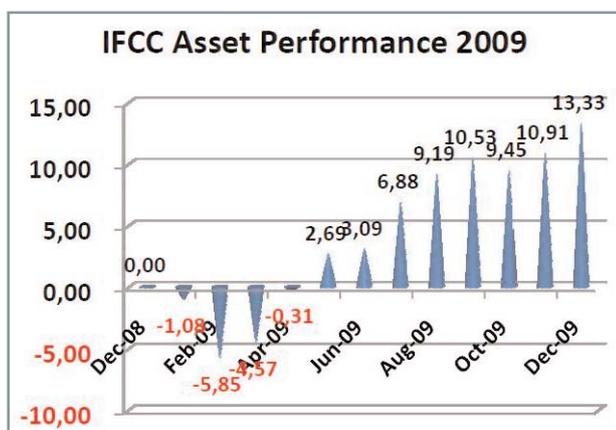
From the diagram of the Major Expenses, one can easily note that the Scientific Division has the largest share among other divisions. This is obvious due to their remarkable scientific activities in various fields. IFCC's support to regional organisations continued in 2009 through sponsoring Workshops & Symposia during EuroMedLab in Innsbruck and by allocating special funds to sponsor the scientific activities in AFCCB, APFCB, COLABIOCLI and EFCC.

In addition to those funds, IFCC officers were very actively sponsored by various programmes like VLP, PSEP and Analytical Quality.

The IFCC Financial Advisory Committee is pleased with the present Auditors, Humphreys & Gates, who perform professional auditing of IFCC accounting. The contract of the auditor was extended till the end of 2012.

Two major changes took place in 2009 to IFCC Client Banks. Dresdner Bank in Switzerland was acquired by LGT Group which owned by the Royal Family of Liechtenstein Province. Banca Intesa was merged with San Paolo Bank and the new name is Intesa San Paolo Bank. However, both banks in addition to Credit Suisse have shown a great deal of cooperation and understanding with the IFCC Treasurer and the IFCC Office staff.

The graph below shows the performance of IFCC assets in 2009. As mentioned before, the performance during 2009 was promising and we are looking forward for continuous improvement in the financial market in the coming years. Such improvement would regain confidence in the management of IFCC assets.



Ghassan Shannan
Treasurer

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Federation presents several awards to clinical chemists, laboratorians, and others who work in the field of clinical chemistry, laboratory medicine, and clinical laboratory science. These awards are presented to recognize the outstanding achievements by these

individuals; to make the scientific community and general public aware of exceptional contributions by them to scientific research and development and the improvement of health care; and to stimulate and encourage other scientists and laboratorians to accelerate their efforts to contribute to the advancement of the field of clinical laboratory medicine and science.

The IFCC Awards Committee for the term of 2009 to 2011 comprises the following members: Professor Jean Claude Forest of Canada, Professor Chris Lam of Hong Kong and China (Chairman), Professor Vladimir Palicka of the Czech Republic, Professor Mohamed Shaarawy of Egypt, Dr Rosa Sierra Amor of Mexico. Dr Carl Burtis of USA and Professor Y M Dennis Lo of Hong Kong were Consultants of the Committee.

Awards Committee's task is to conduct nomination and selection of the following IFCC awards, which are the highest honor that our federation can bestow to colleagues in clinical chemistry and medicine: 1. IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award, 2. IFCC Henry Wishinsky Distinguished International Service Award, 3. IFCC-Beckman Coulter Distinguished Award for Contributions in Education, 4. IFCC-Abbott Distinguished Award for Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics, 5. IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care, 6. IFCC/NIST/CLSI Robert Schaffer Distinguished Award for Standards in Laboratory Medicine, 7. IFCC-Roche Young Investigator Award. The last triennial awards (1-6 above) were conferred at the 20th IFCC WorldLab Congress in Fortaleza, Brazil on 28 September, 2008.

In 2009, the annual IFCC-Abbott Distinguished Award for Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics was conferred to Professor Eleftherios Diamandis of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada at the EuroMedLab Congress Innsbruck on 7 June. The 2010 Award will be conferred at the 12th Asian and Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry that will be held in Seoul, Korea in October.

The IFCC-Roche Young Investigator Award is a new award that has been established by the IFCC Executive Board in June 2009 with the following guidelines and criteria: "This new award recognizes and encourages the academic and professional developments of a young investigator who has demonstrated exceptional scientific achievements in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine early in his/her career. Nominees must be younger than 40 years by January 1 in the year of the award (e.g. 2011), and assessment will be based on the originality, creativity and significance of their research and development work in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine demonstrating great potential of becoming an outstanding investigator".

The next round of all the above 7 IFCC Awards will be conferred at the 21st IFCC WorldLab Congress in Berlin, Germany in May 2011. The Awards Committee plans to call for nominations of these awards in mid-2010.

C W K Lam
Awards Committee, Chair

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Corporate Representation at IFCC Executive Board for the three years term 2009-2011 will focus on the following topics: 1. Strength communication and collaboration between IVD industry and laboratory professionals. 2. Position laboratory medicine as an important and indispensable part of patient health care.

The clinical and economical value of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics is totally underestimated in both public and governmental health authorities. In addition a lot of research and development is done outside universities in IVD companies. New diagnostic biomarkers from industry are launched year by year for early diagnosis of diseases and to improve disease state management in patient health care. Therefore, it is crucial for both IFCC and IVD industry work together because these goals can be only achieved by joint activities in an equal partnership.

At EuroMedLab 2009 in Innsbruck the Corporate Representative and the IFCC President together started with a kick-off meeting entitled "Adding Value". The purpose of this meeting with National Scientific Societies and Corporate Members was to develop and agree a common programme of work for IFCC and its members. The theme to this programme is "Adding value to clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine". Examples of adding value are likely to include clinical liaison, harmonisation, evidence-based practice and public relations. A follow-up meeting is planned at the General Conference in Corfu in April 2010.

In 2009 the total number of Corporate Members has increased to 39. In a year with extremely challenging global economical conditions and budget constraints for the majority of IVD companies Corporate Members contributed significantly to the overall IFCC budget, sponsored IFCC Scientific Awards, and continued supporting IFCC activities e.g. working in all three IFCC Divisions in their Executive Committees. In addition numerous delegates from Corporate Members actively collaborated in most of the scientific workgroups.

In 2009 only one Corporate Representative Meeting was organized in conjunction with EuroMedLab in Innsbruck. IFCC officers of the Executive Board participated in this meeting to welcome new Corporate Members. In addition the strategy of the new IFCC Executive Board was presented and discussed. In 2010 Corporate Members meetings are planned at the General Conference in Corfu and at AACC in Anaheim, CA.

One of the highlights in 2009 was certainly EuroMedLab in Innsbruck, Austria. The exhibits of a multitude of IVD companies made a very important part of the congress. In total 65 IVD companies sponsored the conference. Furthermore 13 companies organized numerous Industry Sponsored Workshops (ISW) presenting in vitro diagnostic novelties and high level research outcomes of industry activities. However, industry exhibition time with 4.5 days was considered as too long. Therefore a first decision has been made with the Organising Committee of EuroMedLab 2011 in Berlin to shorten the expo to 3 days.

Thomas Brinkmann
Corporate Representative

COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES (C-CC)

Meetings and Membership

Dr Vanessa Steenkamp from South Africa started her first term as Member of C-CC in 2009. C-CC held one committee meeting during the EuroMedLab 2009 meeting in Innsbruck.

International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

WordLab 2008

XX IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (XX ICCCLM) was held in Fortaleza, Brazil from 28 September to 2 October 2008. A report of the congress states that the total number of participants was 4000, of which 3000 were from Brazil and Latin America and 1000 from other regions. The number of countries represented was 82, and there were 20 exhibitors.

WordLab 2011

The IFCC WorldLab Berlin 2011 (XXI ICCCLM) will be held concurrently with the IFCC-EFCC EuroMedLab from 15-20 May 2011 in Berlin, Germany. The International Scientific Committee for IFCC-WorldLab Berlin 2011 had a meeting in Innsbruck on Tuesday, June 9th, 2009 to review the status of the meeting. The first meeting of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) was held in Berlin on December 14th and 15th, 2009.

WordLab 2014

The contract between the Turkish Society of Clinical Chemistry (TBD), IFCC and Emmezeta was signed in May 2009 in Istanbul. The Congress' web-site has recently been set up: www.istanbul2014.org. The first announcements were published and circulated to the participants at EuroMedLab2009 in Innsbruck.

Regional Congresses

EuroMedLab Innsbruck

EuroMedLab Innsbruck 2009 Congress was successfully held in Innsbruck, Austria, on June 07-11, 2009 both scientifically and socially. 2681 delegates attended the congress and there were also 1300 visitors for the exhibition. 867 posters were accepted. The exhibition area was 2620 m². The congress had 69 sponsors, of which 6 were major sponsors, 3 official sponsors and 4 principal sponsors.

XII Arab Congress of Clinical Biology

12th ArabMedlab, Arab Federation of Clinical took place in Beirut/Beyrouth, October 1-3, 2009.

12th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry

The 12th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry will be held in Seoul, Korea from 3-8 October 2010. Prof. James Wesenberg was appointed to the COC of 12th APCCB. Various committees are being setup and the website is <http://www.apccb2010.org>. The three divisions of IFCC will organize several symposia chosen by the organizers.

EuroMedLab 2013

The IFCC Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC) evaluated the three bids (Milan, Paris and Stockholm) for EuroMedLab 2013. The scoring results of the C-CC members for the three bids for EuroMedLab 2013 were: Milano 423, Paris 414 and Stockholm 398. The national society representatives of EFCC voted in favor of Milan during the EFCC General Assembly which was held on June 10th, 2009 during the EuroMedLab 2009 Congress.

Congresses with IFCC Auspices

C-CC provides IFCC Auspices to high quality meetings/congresses in the area of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. 36 organizations have granted for IFCC auspices for their meetings in 2009. The list of these meetings is available on the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org).

Tomris Ozben
C-CC Chair

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION (SD)

During 2009, the following members served on the SD Executive Committee: Mauro Panteghini (Italy) (Chair), Ian Young (UK) (Vice-Chair), Gary Myers (United States) (Secretary), Philippe Gillery (France), Lothar Siekmann (Germany), Naotaka Hamasaki (Japan) and George Brotea (United States) (corporate representative). Three representatives of International Organizations are invited to attend the SD meetings as consultants: Jean-Claude Forest (JCTLM), Heinz Schimmel (IRMM) and David Bunk (NIST). Two meetings were held during the year 2009: April 17-18 (Milan, IT) and October 2-3 (Milan, IT).

Relationship with International Organizations

The SD continues to pursue the expansion of its activities to partner with international organizations to promote the implementation of the concept of traceability in laboratory medicine and the implementation of reference measurement systems.

Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

The JCTLM continues its work which is available for review on its database at www.bipm.org/jctlm. The Working Group 1 on Reference Measurement Procedures and Reference Materials continues its program of identifying and reviewing against agreed criteria (ISO standards 15193 and 15194). The Working Group 2 on Reference Measurement Services has reviewed new nominations from candidate laboratories. A procedure is in place to periodically review the lists and to remove entries when they no longer meet the established criteria. The database has become a reliable source of information particularly for the In Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) industry.

Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)

Close collaboration with IRMM continues through a number of joint ventures involving SD Committees and Working Groups. New materials for aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and C-reactive protein (CRP) have been released. Projects continue for the preparation of materials for HbA₂, myoglobin, cystatin C, β 2-microglobulin and ceruloplasmin.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) (formerly NCCLS)

An updated list of joint CLSI/IFCC documents is available on the IFCC web site at:

[http://www.ifcc.org/index.asp?cat=Publications&scat=CLSI \(Clin Lab Stand Inst\) - IFCC Joint Projects&rif=6&dove=1](http://www.ifcc.org/index.asp?cat=Publications&scat=CLSI (Clin Lab Stand Inst) - IFCC Joint Projects&rif=6&dove=1).

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

NIST continues to undertake a large number of projects, many of which are of considerable interest to IFCC. Standard Reference Materials (SRM) released in 2009 include: vitamin D in human serum (SRM 972) and 25-Hydroxyvitamin D₂ and D₃ calibrating solutions (SRM 2972). SRMs to be released in the near future include: Steroid hormones including thyroid hormones in human serum; Drugs of abuse in human serum; Metabolites in human plasma; Creatinine in human urine; Antiepilepsy drugs in serum; Vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ in human serum; Fat soluble vitamins and carotenoids in human serum.

International Congress of Clinical Chemistry (ICCC)

XXI International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (Wordlab 2011) Berlin, Germany (May 15th-20th, 2011)

The SD was asked to develop proposals for symposia to submit to the EB. Three symposia topics were suggested.

Regional and other congresses

EuroMedLab Innsbruck

Two official symposia were presented by the SD during the EuroMedLab Innsbruck on June 7-11, 2009: "How to Define and Determine Reference Intervals and Decision Limits in Laboratory Medicine" and "Standardization Activities in Endocrinology".

12th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry, Seoul

The SD proposed symposium "Standardization activities in endocrinology" was accepted for APCCB in Seoul, Korea.

Activities of Committees and Working Groups

The Committees (Cs), which are theme-oriented, carry out much of the scientific and professional activities of the SD. Their work is often in close collaboration with other international organizations. For more specific tasks, the activities are usually accomplished through Working Groups (WGs). During the year the SD EC had the opportunity to meet with the Chairs of C-PP and WG-HbA2.

Committees

C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-NPU terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Provide advice for the management, updating and publishing of the NPU terminology.* Accomplishments include: updated version of the NPU terminology data-base that has been available for download at the national Danish site, www.labterm.dk, since January 2009. Collaboration with IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization), which manages SNOWMED CT, lead to a satisfactorily performed trial period April-October 2009.

Term of Reference 2. *Make recommendations on NPU for reporting clinical laboratory data that conform to or adopt current standards of authoritative organizations and that will improve their utilization for health care.* Accomplishments include: Properties and units for function examinations (IUPAC 2001-067-1-700) is progressing. Properties and units for urinary calculi (2001-070-1-700) is progressing. Securing and structural updating of information in the NPU coding system and its environment (IUPAC 2006-012-1-700). A 102 page user's guide has been edited in Danish, and published on the Danish Board of health website. An English version has been drafted, and is under review within the C-NPU. A second version of the NPU coding system is intended to be posted on the SFBC (French Society of Clinical Biology) website.

Term of Reference 3. *To provide a connection with other organizations concerned with NPU, such as the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and, by extension, clinical laboratory sciences societies, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).* Accomplishments include: All of the above activities were jointly performed with IUPAC. Copy of VIM3 was released on free access on the IFCC website.

C-Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)

Term of Reference 1. *To foster dynamic exchanges between IFCC and Mol DX labs and industry.* Accomplishments include: Organized a "Brown Bag" session on Nucleic Acids Reference Materials at the 2009 AACC Annual Meeting. The C-MD is collaborating with the CanGeneTest research consortium on genetic laboratory services (www.cangenetest.org) for the production of a horizon-scanning newsletter in the field of Genetic Laboratory Services.

Term of Reference 2. *Guidelines on validation, conduct and reporting of Mol DX tests.* Accomplishments include: Publication in CCLM of a first paper on a proposed reference method for haploid DNA. Preparation of a document commenting on the UK Human Genetics Commission's public consultation on a framework on direct-to-consumer genetic testing. A consensus of available guidelines on molecular DX testing has been compiled on the C-MD web page.

Term of Reference 3. *Provision of well-defined reference materials.* Accomplishments include: A position paper on nucleic acid reference materials is in preparation. The C-MD website provides an updated census of available reference materials and EQA programs for Mol DX.

Term of Reference 4. *Creation of a network of locus specific IFCC Molecular Diagnostic Centers.* Accomplishments include: Planning continues for a call for laboratories to participate in the network.

Term of Reference 5. *C-MD web page within IFCC website.* Accomplishments include: All the links of this web page have been validated and upgraded in 2009 and it now contains 324 links.

C-Plasma Proteins (C-PP)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-PP terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Standardization of plasma protein determinations by the uniform use of international reference materials.* Accomplishments include: Collaboration with IRMM for the production of protein reference materials; ?2-Microglobulin (B2M), C-reactive protein, ceruloplasmin and myoglobin. Development of a study to evaluate analytical issues with assays for free light chains in serum.

Term of Reference 2. *Establishment of new reference intervals after uniform calibration of different analytical systems.* Accomplishments include: Collaboration on a third Asian study on reference intervals.

C-Standardization of Markers of Cardiac Damage (C-SMCD)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-SMCD terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Analytical and clinical recommendations pertaining to standardization and evaluation of available biomarker assays.* Accomplishments include: The C-SMCD reviewed a draft protocol for establishing a repository of samples from reference subjects for the purpose of defining 99th percentiles upper limit for troponin assays.

Term of Reference 2. *Evaluate need for performance improvements of biomarkers.* Accomplishments include: Two papers describing the experimental work for the second stage of the project to evaluate BNP, proBNP and NT-proBNP antigens from multiple commercial sources for cross-reactivity in commercial and experimental BNP, NT-proBNP and proBNP assays are in final stages of revision.

Term of Reference 3. *Evaluate selection and use frequency of biomarkers in varied clinical settings.* Accomplishments include: The tables for cardiac troponin and natriuretic peptides assays have been reviewed, updated and posted on IFCC website.

C-Reference Systems for Enzymes (C-RSE)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-RSE terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *New 37 °C IFCC enzyme reference procedures are developed on the basis of the existing 30 °C IFCC methods.* Accomplishments include: Preparation of a manu-script for publication as an IFCC document entitled: "IFCC reference procedures for catalytic concentration measurement of enzymes: Corrigendum, notes and useful advice".

C-RSE has cooperated with C-RIDL to solve the problem of missing reference intervals for the proposed IFCC reference measurement procedure for alkaline phosphatase (ALP). Work on the development of a reference measurement procedure for lipase continues.

Term of Reference 2. *Network of Enzyme Reference Laboratories: Coordination of a group of reference laboratories from hospitals, academy and industry, which are able to perform adequate measurements according to a list of stated requirements.* Accomplishments include: None

Term of Reference 3. *Enzyme Reference Materials: Evaluate reference materials provided by IRMM within the network of reference laboratories prior to certification.* Accomplishments include: Members of the C-RSE reference laboratory network are co-authors of the publica-tion entitled: "Traceability of values for catalytic activity concentration of enzymes: a Certified Reference Material for aspartate transaminase" submitted for publication.

C-Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)

As a result of concern over a lack of productivity by the C-POCT, the IFCC Executive Board (EB) decided to terminate the C-POCT. See also Project Proposals.

C-Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-TLM terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Support activities of the JCTLM - based on a harmonized opinion among IFCC members - concerning the identification of reference measurement procedures, reference materials and reference laboratories.* Accomplishments include: Comments were provided on the document "Summary Technical Documentation (STED) for Demonstrating Conformity to the Essential Principles of Safety and Performance of In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices" of the Global Harmonization Task Force.

Term of Reference 2. *Establish an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for reference laboratories and act as an advisory committee.* Accomplishments include: The 6th ring trial for Reference Laboratories (RELA 2008) was completed in June 2009. The RELA website was redesigned and a guideline for the use of the website was published. Alkaline phosphatase measurement will be added to the 2010 RELA survey.

C-Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards C-RIDL terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Review current concepts of establishing reference intervals and decision limits and*

to prepare state-of-the-art position statements regarding new avenues to make available reference intervals and decision limits that respect the requirements of international directives, such as the European IVD Directive 98/79, and relevant ISO standards.

Accomplishments include: One paper published.

Term of Reference 2. *Determine priority list of analytes for which reference intervals and/or decision limits have to be developed.* Accomplishments include: None.

Term of Reference 3. *To monitor and evaluate currently proposed reference intervals for selected analytes in the light of the concept of traceability and of the identification of the uncertainty.* Accomplishments include: None.

Term of Reference 4. *To establish transferability protocols of reference intervals and decision limits, which take into consideration inter-routine laboratory method variations and achieve better applicability in clinical practice.* Accomplishments include: None.

Term of Reference 5. *To collaborate with other organizations and/or to undertake establishment of reference intervals or decision limits for analytes identified as a priority.* Accomplishments include: Collection of data on reference subjects was completed for AST, ALT and GGT. The 3rd Asian study on reference intervals has been concluded.

Term of Reference 6. *To work in close collaboration with other Cs and WGs of SD for the development and appropriate clinical utilization of reference intervals and decision limits.* Accomplishments include: Collaborated with C-RSE to collect samples from reference subjects for ALP.

Working Groups

WG-Apolipoproteins (WG-A)

The IFCC-EB decided the termination of the WG. The CDC is prepared to continue to act as repository for the two Apolipoprotein B and A-I reference materials.

WG - Standardisation of hCG (WG-SHCG)

The paper summarizing EQA results obtained with the international reference reagents (IRR) for hCG and related molecules has been published in Clinical Chemistry (see publication list). The intact hCG material, which has served for IRR 99/686 prepared by WG-SHCG (recoded as 07/364), has been proposed by NISBC as 5th WHO international standard for hCG.

As the major work of the WG has been completed, the IFCC-EB decided the termination of the WG.

WG-Standardization of HbA1c (WG-HbA1c)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-HbA1c terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Development of a reference system for HbA1c.* Accomplishments include: Improvement to the IFCC Reference Measurement Procedure for HbA1c by LC-ESI/MS will be investigated and assessed by the network.

Term of Reference 2. *Development of a network of reference laboratories.* Accomplishments include: Currently there are 13 IFCC Reference Network Laboratories for HbA1c (5 HPLC-MS and 8 HPLC-CE).

These participate in analytical exercises demonstrating their competence with the reference measurement procedures. Their work continues to demonstrate that the Master Equation remains remarkably constant.

Term of Reference 3. *Collaboration with clinicians for the transition from National to International Standardization.* Accomplishments include: Clinical and laboratory representatives of a number of countries have agreed on future reporting of HbA1c results, many of which have adopted the IFCC recommendation. These decisions will continue to be made at the national level and there are different views on this matter; the UK, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Canada and Japan are likely to adopt SI (IFCC) units, whereas the US is likely to remain with NGSP units and may be the only country to adopt calculation of average glucose (eAG).

The major work to establish an international reference system to standardize HbA1c has been completed. The priority now is the implementation of the IFCC recommendations for standardizing and reporting HbA1c results. The SD recommended closing the WG and placing the HbA1c Laboratory Network under the oversight of the C-TLM. As a consequence, the creation of an IFCC Integrated Project on Implementation of HbA1c standardization was approved by the IFCC EB.

WG-Standardisation of Thyroid Function Tests (WG-STFT)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-STFT terms of reference included:

Term of Reference. *Development of reference measurement systems for thyroid hormones (total T4 and T3, free T4 & T3) and TSH.* Accomplishments include: For FT4, a phase II proof-of-concept study consisting of a method comparison between immunoassays and the ED ID-LC/tandem MS international conventional candidate reference measurement procedure confirmed that method comparison on using a panel of native sera is an appropriate tool to serve the purpose of standardization (through recalibration of immunoassays). A phase II proof-of-concept study for TSH was also performed which consisted of analysis of a panel of sera obtained according to the CLSI C37-A protocol (without filtration) from apparently healthy donors and comparison of each assay's results performance against the "all methods' trimmed mean". The consistency was within ~10%. For most assays the recalibration process by the respective manufacturers was successfully done and in agreement with mathematical recalibration; the interassay CV improved considerably after recalibration.

WG-Standardization of Hemoglobin A2 (WG-HbA2)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-HbA2 terms of reference included:

Term of Reference. To promote the standardisation of hemoglobin A2 measurement through the definition of an international reference system, including a reference measurement procedure and primary and secondary reference materials. Accomplishments include: Development of the reference method: A need for optimizing the digestion was underlined, as well the opportunity to increase the number of MS laboratories

to reduce the uncertainty. Two labeled peptides as internal standards are being prepared.

Secondary reference materials: The one-year stability study on the first pilot of a lyophilized material from a human stabilized hemolysate at physiological HbA2 concentration was completed. The specimens have been tested for homogeneity and stability under various conditions, as well for the HbA2 content measured by various analytical methods. Results indicate excellent quality of this first batch, also with respect to the content of HbA1c. Preparation of the large batch is being delayed until validation of the reference measurement procedure is completed.

WG-Standardisation of Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin (WG-CDT)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-CDT terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Establish a network of CDT reference laboratories that perform the HPLC candidate reference method.* Accomplishments include: Five laboratories are performing the HPLC candidate reference method. A WG ring trial (Ring trial-A) in May 2009 including both native and lyophilized serum pools at two CDT (% disialotransferrin) levels showed an interlaboratory CV in the range 2.5-7.3% for the reference laboratories. Another ring trial (October 2009) included one native serum pool and three different lyophilized variants showed an interlaboratory CV for the CDT reference laboratories in the range 3.2-3.7%. Further studies are planned on the possible use of mass spectrometry as a reference method for CDT.

Term of Reference 2. *Development of a reference material for CDT.* Accomplishments include: A Ring trial-A was conducted to compare native and lyophilized serum pools at two disialotransferrin levels for all available commercial routine and research CDT methods (HPLC, CE, immunoassay). The standard lyophilization process was not optimal for the N Latex CDT immunoassay. A meeting with the IRMM representatives on a possible joint development strategy for production of CDT reference materials was held.

WG-Standardisation of Cystatin C Assays (WG-SCC)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-SCC terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Promote the standardisation of cystatin C measurement through the definition of an international reference system including a reference measurement procedure and primary and secondary reference materials.* Accomplishments include: Further characterization of both the Primary and Secondary Reference Preparations (called PRP and SRP, respectively) has been performed. New double radial immunodiffusion studies (= Ouchterlony studies), crossed immunoelectrophoresis, gel filtration and SDS-PAGE-immunoblotting studies have been used. The results indicated that both preparations contained virtually only monomeric cystatin C with a molecular mass and electrophoretic mobility characteristic for native intact cystatin C.

The value assignment of cystatin C in the SRP (ERM-DA471/IFCC) has been carried out using the above-mentioned PRP. The study was conducted using the following immunochemical methods: single radial immunodiffusion, immunonephelometry and immunoturbidimetry. The total number of value assignment studies was 7, performed at 4 different expert laboratories all following the same practical protocol. The mathematical analysis indicated that all assays gave comparable results and that all data therefore could be pooled for suggesting a concentration value of cystatin C in the SRP. Commutability studies by IRMM have been started. A report has been submitted to the Certification Advisory Panel at IRMM for ERM-DA471/IFCC.

WG-Standardisation of Glomerular Filtration Rate Assessment (WG-GFRA)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-GFRA terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Coordinate, support and undertake collaborative international studies to evaluate and define performance characteristics of available clinical laboratory measurement procedures for creatinine, supporting the use of eGFR, and enabling development of best-practices analytical recommendations for clinical laboratories.*

Accomplishments include: A collaborative study to evaluate specificity among currently available routine serum creatinine methods was completed. The study involved four major IVD systems manufacturers using 8 commercially available creatinine methods (systems) and the LC/IDMS-MS reference method. More than 20,000 serum creatinine measurements were completed for 429 native human specimens, selected for likely presence of potential interferences. Data analysis is ongoing.

Term of Reference 2. *Promote the establishment and growth of a reference laboratory network for creatinine measurements in serum and urine.* Accomplishments include: Collaboration with N Dalton (London, UK) to establish calibration traceability and performance characteristics for his LC/MS-MS reference measurement procedure for creatinine, so that the method could be used as the reference measurement procedure for the IFCC/NKDEP creatinine specificity study described above.

WG-Standardisation of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-SAU terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Establish a reference procedure and reference materials for the measurement of albumin in urine.* Accomplishments include: An albumin in urine reference material has been prepared by the Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) and value assigned for use in Japanese internal investigations. A LC-MS/MS method developed at the Mayo Clinic, US is being validated as a reference measurement procedure to quantify intact albumin in urine.

Term of Reference 2. *Establish recommendations for sample collection and handling to improve uniformity of results.* Accomplishments include: A study to evaluate adsorption of albumin onto containers used for urine

collection and urine albumin measurement has been completed by CDC. Planning of a study to evaluate urine albumin physiologic variability coordinated by CDC is complete. IRB submissions are in process.

Terms of Reference 3. *Define the measurand(s) that are important for clinical interpretation of urine albumin.* Accomplishments include: NKDEP has completed plans for a study to determine the molecular forms of urine albumin.

WG-Standardisation of Pregnancy-associated Plasma Protein A (WG-PAPPA)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-PAPPA terms of reference included:

Term of Reference: *Develop a reference system for standardisation of PAPP-A measurement employed as marker for prenatal screening.* Accomplishments include: In anticipation of a project start, reagents (several PAPP-A preparations extracted from pregnancies, index antibodies) have been identified and received from Hytest Ltd, Finland.

WG-Growth Hormone (WG-GH)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-GH terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Assessment of the commutability of WHO 98/574 reference material.* Accomplishments include: A Meeting with IRMM to discuss GH assay harmonization and potential ways to collaborate on commutability was held and also a meeting with representatives from clinical societies to discuss GH assay harmonization and to plan for collection of serum samples for commutability studies.

Term of Reference 2. *Determination of the clinical decision limits for specific assays.* Accomplishment include: A consensus workshop with the Growth Hormone Research Society, the IGF Society, assay manufacturers, representatives from laboratories and regulatory bodies (including FDA) was held to discuss assay harmonization.

Term of Reference 3. *Identification of a reference procedure for GH measurement.* Accomplishments include: Developed and conducted initial validation of a MS method to quantify GH in serum/EQAS samples based on the measurement of specific fragments.

WG-Standardisation of Insulin Assays (WG-SIA)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-SIA terms of reference included:

Term of Reference. *Improve the standardization of assays for insulin by the development of a candidate reference method and materials.* Accomplishments include: Funding was provided by NIH to support the collection and preparation of a panel of single donor samples for insulin assay harmonization.

WG-Standardisation of Troponin I (WG-TNI)

During 2009 ongoing progress towards WG-TNI terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. *Develop a candidate secondary reference measurement procedure and candidate secondary reference material for cardiac troponin I (cTnI).*

Accomplishments include: Candidate Reference Measurement Procedure: NIST has selected final 2 monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) which showed optimized binding affinity (multibead technology). NPL designed 1+1 ELISA format (capture Ab 41-49 a.a. and detection Ab 83-93 a.a.) and optimised the method for reference material value assignment; the method validation is in progress. The WG has developed a pilot study protocol to investigate comparability of the candidate RMP versus current commercial cTnI assays.

Candidate Secondary Reference Material: The WG has developed a pilot study protocol to investigate the feasibility of preparing a commutable, stable secondary reference material for cTnI by use of serum pools. The study involves NIST, NPL, hospital laboratories and industry. The collection of patient samples is underway.

Term of Reference 2. Testing for cTnI standardization and clinical validation by comparison with validated commercial assays in a round robin study.

Accomplishments include: None.

Project Proposals

The IFCC EB approved the creation of a new WG on "Allowable Errors for Traceable Results" (WG-AETR) and R Bais (AU) has been appointed as Chair. The IFCC EB approved the creation of a new WG on "Harmonization of Autoantibody Tests" (WG-HAT) and J Sheldon (UK) has been appointed as Chair. The IFCC EB approved the creation of a new WG on "Quality Specifications for Glucose POCT" (WG-GPOCT) and R Tirimacco (AU) has been appointed as Chair.

Mauro Panteghini
SD Chair

EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

The provision of educational resources for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, particularly in emerging countries, is the key remit of the Education and Management Division (EMD). During 2009, there have been significant developments to this end within the work of the Division.

Firstly, in developing resources for the IFCC Project to raise awareness of quality competence in emerging nations, two workshops on accreditation and analytical quality were held during the year, in Sri Lanka in February and in Macedonia in September. The former was coupled with a workshop on clinical interpretation, presented by Ken Sikaris, the Chair of the Committee on Analytical Quality (C-AQ) and Janet Smith. The C-AQ members and members of the Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM), under the Chairmanship of Elizabeth Frank, have a wealth of experience and knowledge in all areas of quality in the clinical laboratory. These workshops have provided us with a template which will be readily transferable to other countries and IFCC Regions which request symposia or workshops on any aspect of quality. For 2010, a workshop on accreditation is planned for February in Indonesia and one on laboratory management and accreditation in Tunisia in December. It is also hoped that educational

resources focusing on quality issues can be provided for countries within the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry.

The second area in which there has been major progress for emerging nations is in fulfilling the objective of the Chair of the Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC), Michael Neumaier, to provide courses on molecular biology in countries which require them. A pilot for these courses was held in Syria in December and was extremely successful. Lessons learnt from it will be used to refine the course for the future. It is hoped to hold such a course on at least an annual basis and national Societies wishing to host such a course should contact Dr Neumaier or IFCC Office.

Michael Thomas has been appointed as a consultant to the Project to raise awareness of quality competence and under the auspices of the project, funding has been provided for the second pilot of a collaborative project between the Australian and Vietnamese National Societies to implement an EQA scheme in Vietnam. A meeting of the Project steering group will be held during the Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (APCCB) in October 2010.

It is inevitable that distance learning will become a major educational tool for the EMD in the future. The IFCC Siemens distance learning module on natriuretic peptides, available on the IFCC website, has now been translated into French and Spanish and the contributions of Bernard Gouget and Daniel Mazziotta to this process is appreciated by EMD. Work on the second IFCC Siemens module on Quality Systems and ISO 15189 continues. It is an objective of the EMD to work closely with the Communications and Publications Division in developing distance learning for IFCC.

The Committee on Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM), under its new Chair, Robert Christenson, held a very successful EBLM course in Croatia in October 2009. It is the long term aim of the C-EBLM to develop a distance learning module, based on the course. In the shorter term, the presentations from the Croatia course will be made available on the IFCC website. We welcome Rob and also Chris Florkowski, who both have extensive expertise in evidence-based medicine, to the Division.

A new EMD Working Group, looking at bone markers in the diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis (WG-BMS), was established this year. Under the chairmanship of Sam Vasikaran, the WG is working closely with the International Osteoporosis Federation, to ensure that there is appropriate clinician input into the development of recommendations.

The work of the Division is dependent on resources being available to allow experts to travel to present symposia, courses and workshops in all IFCC Regions. Without the generous support of Corporate Members of IFCC, this would not be possible. In particular, we must thank Abbott for their continuing support of the Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP). During 2009, VLP visits have been made to many countries, including Mexico, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India, Nigeria, Lebanon, Syria, Romania, Peru, Macedonia and Turkey.

I would like to thank all members of EMD Committees and Divisions for their hard work and support during the year and give special thanks to Ken Sikaris, Chair of the C-AQ, whose second term of Office was completed at the end of December 2009, for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Division over many years.

Janet Smith
EMD Chair

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION (CPD)

Activities and Reports

This was the third year of Ellis Jacobs' first term as CPD chair. Three face-to-face committee meetings were held in 2009, Milano, Italy February 2009, Innsbruck, Austria June 2009, and Bydgoszcz, Poland October 2009. A meeting was held with editors and publishers of biomedical journals at EuroMedLab 2009 (Innsbruck). Approval was given to Acta Biochimica Clinica Latinoamericana (ABCL) to publish three more Spanish translations of IFCC documents (these translations will be posted on the RIA corner of the IFCC website). Copyright approval was given to Siemens Diagnostic Solutions to reproduce the table on troponin assays. The IFCC logo copyright was given to the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) in the frame of the joint IOF-IFCC Working Group on bone markers. Permission was also given to Clinical & Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) to reproduce the equation for transformation of whole blood to plasma glucose concentration. Progress continued in completing the CPD 3-year strategic plan that was approved in 2007 by the EB.

Committees

C-Public Relations

This is the second year of this committee, chaired by Khosrow Adeli, and continues to be very active. The IFCC promotional brochure was updated after the elections in Fortaleza and has been printed by the IFCC in nine languages: English, Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Greek, French, Japanese, Arabic and Russian. An IFCC informational/promotional PowerPoint presentation was developed for use by IFCC officers and representatives. A PR brochure for the general public is being developed.

Joint IFCC-"Labs are Vital™" PR Initiative - This is a "Laboratory Survival Program", sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics but at arms-length. The current focus/objectives of the LAV program are: to recognize and celebrate vital contributions of Lab Professionals, to continue to develop online resources. The LAV program has also developed a number of metrics to assess progress: unique site-visits, supporter Registration (conversion), supporter Engagement (total actions), email Activity, time spent on site (new metric).

Working Groups

WG-eJIFCC

The publication schedule was adhered to, consisting of 4 issues per year. Different members of the IFCC and editor-in-chief acted as Guest Editors for the different issues. Application for Medline indexing was denied because of not having a sufficient indexing priority. Several recommendations were received: develop a journal policy regarding ethics, have submission guidelines available on the website, and expand the Editorial Board. Inactive members of the Board were removed and a new board member was added. Currently there are 5 members of eJIFCC Working Group (eJIFCC Editorial Board). Starting in 2010 there will no longer be thematic issues because of the difficulty in obtaining enough manuscripts on a selected subject within a reasonable time, and the content will be oriented toward practice issues and audits.

WG-IFCC News

WG membership consists of representation from Australia, Belgium, Canada, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and UK. Members are now required to submit at least two articles per year. The schedule of 6 issues per year has been maintained with good content. However the shortage of opinion, position papers and letters to the editor remain somewhat problematic.

The relationship between IFCC and LabMedica International for the print publication of the IFCC News continues to be smooth and without issues.

WG-Internet and Distant Learning (WG-IDL)

Prof Thanh Van Ta from Saigon, Vietnam was appointed Publications and Distance Learning Coordinator in 2009 and is chair of this WG. He is actively working on reactivating this WG. Dr. Andrew Lyons (CA) (the new IFCC Web Editor) and Prof Petr Kocna (Chair - EMD Committee on Distance Learning) are new members of this WG. A new website was launched in January and a Webmaster was hired. The Distance Learning Coordinator, Web Editor, and Webmaster have been working to restore functionality, e.g. access to several databases was lost in the transition to the new website. New functionality is being added, e.g. open and closed (private) forums, hosting distance learning programs. Guidelines for website maintenance/updating have been developed.

Siemens/IFCC Distance Learning Program

Through the end of 2009, the first distance learning program on B-Natriuretic Peptide (oral lecture with PowerPoint slides), that was released in September 2008 has been viewed by 382 individuals and completed by 85 individuals. It has been translated into French and Spanish and these modules are expected to be available the 1st quarter of 2010. The next program, a multipart program on developing a quality system in line with ISO 15189 based on the EMD workshop in Fortaleza is almost complete.

WG-Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations (WG-IANT)

This WG has been revitalized by Prof Blanes and is working with the Webmaster to develop a new RIA section on the IFCC website.

WG-Reports on Publications

Documents from Committees & Working Groups - Report of the Editor of Documents

The database continues to be updated as publications are forthcoming.

Books

Handbook on Flow Cytometry was translated from German into English and, via a special grant from Coulter Foundation, will be provided free of charge to young scientists in developing countries. An application to receive the free book was placed on the IFCC website. Revision of the "Silver Book": Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (IUPAC and IFCC Recommendations) is almost complete and should be finished next year.

Journals

Meeting of Editors/Publishers

Starting this year, this meeting was expanded to include publishers of society journals. A meeting is held at every major international conference, this year at EuroMedLab in Innsbruck.

Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)

We are in the second of our three year contract with Walter deGruyter relative to CCLM being the official journal of the IFCC. All IFCC documents are available free on the CCLM Web Site. Free access to full online version is available for all NR & PR of members societies, CR, EB, DC, and IFCC Regional presidents. There are also reduced-rate subscriptions available for the paper CCLM through National Societies.

Corporate Member Activities

The corporate member, Franz Baumann (Roche Diagnostics), continues to be active in the development of the Bergmeyer Conference and work closely with the eNews editor.

All individuals whose term of office expired at the end of the year were reappointed for a second term of office by the EB. However, due to the potential problem with all but one member's term expiring at the same time, all members agreed to a potential change in the terms of their service so that a staggering term of office could be put in place.

Ellis Jacobs
CPD Chair

TASK FORCE ON ETHICS (TF-E)

Task Force on Ethics is working on three topics: Survey of Teaching of Ethics in Training Programs, Interactive Workshop on Ethics, Guideline on Ethics for IFCC. The first survey will focus on postdoctoral training programs in which training is predominantly in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, regardless of the area of the trainees' prior doctoral work, whether scientific or medical. The Task Force will send an inquiry to the National Representatives to provide names and contact information for directors of programs. If needed to get an adequate representation of training programs, Task Force members will consider approaching groups in various countries and regions (such as EFCC for Europe <http://www.efcclm.org/>) for contact information on directors of relevant training programs. The list of ComACC-accredited training programs is available on the web (<https://apps.aacc.org/comacc/training.stm>).

The second topic the Task Force is working on is Interactive Workshop on Ethics. The Task Force members have a lot of the experience in the area of publication ethics and thus the Task Force will present a workshop in that area. The following format was agreed enthusiastically for a 45-minute session (to be repeated if desired): 1. Short overview of ethics in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, 2. Case 1 Presentation (2-3 minutes) and Discussion, 3. Case 2: Presentation (2-3 minutes) and Discussion, 4. Summary of points made.

IFCC Executive Board has recognized the need for ethical guidelines for officers and committee members of IFCC. The Task Force will focus on two areas in which task force members have some experience: (1) publication ethics and (2) conflict of interest policies for association officers. Three members of the task force have developed a policy on publication ethics for a journal in the field of clinical chemistry.

That policy was developed after review of the literature on the topic and examination of policies and recommendations from authorities in publication followed by a 2-day meeting and subsequent discussions by email. To make use of this experience and avoid reinventing the wheel, the Task Force agreed that it will review that policy and, as appropriate, use it as a starting point for development of an IFCC policy. The Task Force will also review policies of other organizations on conflict of interest of members of the leadership board.

Task Force on Ethics had a conference call on Nov. 20, 2009.

David Bruns
Task Force on Ethics, Chair

TASK FORCE ON PAEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE (TF-PLM)

Purpose

The purpose of this Task Force is to develop procedures and processes to improve the diagnosis and management of patients from birth to adolescence. Generally this Task Force is dedicated to: Coordinate activities worldwide directed towards the establishment of reference intervals for laboratory test results in paediatric patients of all age groups, to form a sound support basis for the continuation of the International Congresses of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine which have been very successful over the past 25 years, and to create a world wide network of scientists working in laboratories specialized in Paediatric Medicine.

Motivation

Paediatric patients comprise a group with special problems, also with regards to the results of laboratory investigations. Local and regional activities exist in which an exchange of ideas and concepts for the role of the laboratory in the care of children's health take place, but in general, these activities are not linked to each other.

Activities of the Task Force

The TF coordinates, promotes and develops existing IFCC SD research activities associated with reference intervals. Existing regional groups within IFCC, e.g., the Nordic States (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland) are currently engaged in the development of Paediatric Reference values. By close interaction with this group and the IFCC SD, the Task Force will expand these activities to other regions of the world.

Current status, recent and future activities

The XIth International Congress of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (ICPLM) was held September 26th to 28th, in Fortaleza (Brazil), under the motto "Bringing the Best in Paediatric Laboratory Medicine to the Whole World". More than 320 delegates attended the congress; 2 plenary lectures and 8 symposia with 33 lectures were presented. An excellent and encouraging feedback was obtained from many participants. The support from Brazilian colleagues, especially those from the Fortaleza area, was extremely helpful.

The XIIth ICPLM will be held from May 13th to 15th, 2011, in Berlin (Germany), immediately prior to the IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (WorldLab 2011). An International Scientific Advisory Board has been formed, with members nominated from 33 National Societies for Clinical Chemistry. The first meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Board (IAB) took place Wednesday, June 10th, 2009, during the EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuroMedLab 2009) in Innsbruck (Austria). A first outline of the ICPLM 2011 was drafted, and a website was established with the help of the IFCC office (www.icplm2011.org), which is also available in Spanish.

Members of the Task Force have actively participated in many international congresses within the last two years with emphasis on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine and have presented results from studies regarding the

establishment of paediatric reference values. These meetings included the EuroMedLab 2009, and the AACC Annual Meetings 2008 and 2009 as well as other congresses.

Klaus P. Kohse

Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine, Chair

TASK FORCE ON PHARMACOGENETICS (TF-PG)

The IFCC TF-PG committee aims to provide guidance documents for laboratories to facilitate the proper implementation of pharmacogenetic analyses for patient diagnostics. Besides specific pharmacogenetic input from laboratories, also interaction and collaboration with the specific clinical disciplines is sought. An international core team of 6 members was formed as the TF-PG. This task force consisted of a clinical chemist/pharmacogeneticist, a PK expert, a geneticist, two MDs and a clinical pharmacologist.

In 2009, one member resigned due to a change in job responsibilities. This vacancy in the committee was not filled, in order to use the financial space to invite clinical experts to the meetings of the committee. Also in 2009, a Pharmacogenetic Advisory Board of 12 internationally recognized pharmacogenetic experts from inside and outside IFCC was formed to assist the IFCC TF-PG with the preparation of pharmacogenetic guidelines. In addition, the 2009 chair of the IFCC C-MD participates in the Pharmacogenetic Advisory Board, creating interaction between the TF-PG and the C-MD.

The IFCC TF-PG is further in close contact with the German Proficiency testing network (DGKL) in Molecular diagnostics and its External Quality Assessment Programs, in which Pharmacogenetics have a rapidly growing share. In 2009, a start has been made for the formation of a European Laboratory Network on Pharmacogenetics.

This Network may provide specific feedback on pharmacogenetic issues encountered in laboratory practice in the different countries, and will be used for disseminating guidelines. Specific contacts with national pharmacogenetic networks in France, UK, Italy and The Netherlands have been established. There has also been contact with the European Network for Pharmacogenetic Research (in which a member of IFCC TF-PG is active in the Steering Committee) and with Eurogentest, EMEA and the FDA.

The role of the IFCC TF-PG has been presented in several international meetings (ASCPT, ESF, EPMA, EUSPM, IFCC WordLab, EuroMedLab). Based on information available, the IFCC TF-PG produced a priority shortlist of topics to cover regarding publication of guidance documents. The current focus for the TF-PG is to produce guidelines for TPMT pharmaco-genetic testing. Collaboration was established with the European Crohn and Colitis Organization, the British Dermatology Organization and the iBMF group (childhood leukemia). Representatives of these organizations participated in the IFCC TF-PG meetings and have provided valuable input from their specific clinical disciplines.

Ron van Schaik,

Task Force on Pharmacogenetics, Chair

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Executive Board appointed the Nominations Committee at the start of the new triennium. The Committee Chair is Michael Thomas (UK). Other members of the committee are the past chair of the committee, Mary Buritt (USA), the past president of IFCC, Jocelyn Hicks (USA), Leslie Burnett (Australia), Fouad Harb (Syria) and Daniel Mazziotta (Argentina). The committee hopefully reflects the broad geographic diversity of the IFCC.

Over the course of the next two years and leading up to the next meeting of Council preceding WorldLab in Berlin in May 2011, the Nominations Committee will be soliciting nominations for candidates from all full Members of IFCC for positions on the next Executive Board, other than the Past-President and Corporate Representative. Nominations must be submitted before 31st July 2010. After that the committee will undertake the preparation of a slate of candidates, which will be distributed to Council members 3 months before its next meeting. Nominations for the Corporate Representative to the Board will be independently sought from all Corporate members and follows a slightly different timeline to that of other EB members.

Whilst most of the activity of the Nominations Committee takes place by e-mail and through formal letters correspondence with IFCC members we still hope to attend local national and international meetings in our geographic area and look forward to seeing you there.

Michael Thomas
Nominations Committee, Chair

ORGANIZATIONS (REGIONAL) AFFILIATED WITH IFCC

ASIAN-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (APFCB)

Membership

The APFCB membership comprises ordinary and 14 corporate members with one affiliate member.

2009-2010 Travelling Lectureship

Dr Samuel Vasikaran of Perth, Australia the Travelling Lecturer has offered the following topics for this Lectureship:

- I. bone markers and osteoporosis
- II. eGFR and markers of renal disease
- III. interpretative commentary of laboratory results.

Dr Vasikaran delivered the Travelling Lecture in November 2009 at the ACBI annual conference in Kochi, India. For 2010, lectures have been planned for delivery in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea (at the 12th APCCB).

2011-2012 Travelling Lectureship: Dr Angela Wang, a nephrologist from Hong Kong has accepted an invitation to be the APFCB Travelling Lecturer on the topic "New Inflammatory makers in CKD".

IFCC Visiting Lectureship

The 2008-2009 Visiting Lecturer to the APFCB region, Professor Mauro Panteghini, brought his Lectureship to a close with lectures in Chengdu and Beijing in Mainland China, in November.

APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

Professor Gunther Weiss of Innsbruck, Austria, visited Beijing, Hong Kong, Manila and Ho Chi Minh City to speak on the topic "Diagnostic Challenges in Chronic Anaemia's", between 22-27 June.

Interpretative Comments Educational Program Report, 2009

Five case reports were circulated. The responses were assessed by 3-person review panel. The programme had 46 registrants and a response rate was about 50%. These analyses of results will be undertaken in 2010.

The IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on Laboratory Quality was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in April. A one-day workshop on the interpretative commentary of laboratory results was conducted in conjunction with the QA workshop.

The 3rd Asian Project on Reference Intervals Project organised by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara, the APFCB Scientific Committee Chair and involving Japan, the APFCB and the IFCC which was initiated in 2008 continued into 2009. A total of more than 3400 individuals from Japan and 9 cities in Asia-Pacific region took part in the study. The analyses of the samples were completed at the end of July. A meeting of project participants to present preliminary results was held in Osaka on 25th September. Publications from the project are expected in 2010.

Membership

PAMET (Philippines) was admitted as a member of the IFCC in November 2009.

APFCB-AACB Scholarship

One scholarship was awarded from the APFCB's Philanthropic Fund to Dr H V Singh from India for the attendance of the AACB's ASM.

APFCB Publications

The 2008 issue of the APFCB News was published and distributed within and outside the APFCB region.

There following scientific publications in 2009 emerged from the APFCB's projects:

1. Shiesh S-C, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Kao Jau-Tsuen, Vasikaran SD, Lopez JB and the Laboratory Management Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Bio-chemistry. Proficiency Testing of HbA1c: A 4-year experience in Asian and Pacific Re-gion. Clin Chem 2009; 55: 1876-80.
1. Vasikaran SD, Lai LC, Sethi S, Lopez JB, Sikaris KA. Quality of interpretative com-menting on common clinical chemistry results in the Asia-Pacific region. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009; 47: 963-70.

Laboratory Automation Meeting

The AACC-APFCB-Malaysian ACB Workshop on Laboratory Automation was held in Kuala Lumpur on 22nd and 23rd October. The meeting had 6 corporate sponsors and about more than 150 participants.

12th Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (12th APCCB), Seoul, Korea, 3-8 Oct 2010

Preparations for the congress are well in progress. Corporate sponsorship is within expectation and the scientific programme was almost completed by the end of the year. The APFCB will host the following scientific sessions which will be organised by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara:

- I. A 120-minute symposium on the "The Asian Project for Joint Derivation of Reference Intervals and Exploration of Diagnostic Evidence for Laboratory Medicine".
- II. Co-host a 4 hour workshop entitled, "Educational Course: Multivariate analyses for laboratory scientists".

The IFCC will host the following symposia as part of the main scientific programme:

1. IFCC CPD: Electronic Communication and Distance Learning
2. IFCC SD: Standardization Activities in Endocrinology
3. IFCC EMD: Predictive Medicine: A New Goal For Laboratory Medicine

IFCC-APFCB Draft Agreement

The draft of an agreement between the APFCB and IFCC was actively discussed before being forwarded to the IFCC for its consideration.

APFCB Strategic Plan

Following a suggestion made at the Council Meeting held in Beijing in October 2007, a Task Force was formed to draw up a Strategic Plan for the APFCB with the President as the Chair. The Task Force will hold its first meeting in Perth, Australia, on 30th January, 2010.

APFCB Corporate Members provided the following sponsorships during the year 2009:

No.	Company	Activity
1.	BD Diagnostics	• IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka • Reference Intervals project
2.	Bio-Rad	IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka
3.	Beckman-Coulter	APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

IFCC Grant

As in previous years, the APFCB received a grant of CHF 10,000 from the IFCC for its activities.

Management

The APFCB is domiciled in Singapore and the management of its financial and regulatory affairs is handled by its office in Singapore. Despite the increasing level of activity, the APFCB's finances remain healthy. The start of financial year was changed from 1st August to 1st January to coincide the financial year with the start of the annual activity cycle.

APFCB Members

The following Area or National Societies are members of the APFCB.

1. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)

2. Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM)
3. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)
4. Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)
5. Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC)
6. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
7. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
8. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB)
9. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)
10. Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)
11. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)
12. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemistry (SACB)
13. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL)
14. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taipei, China (CACB)
15. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemists (TACB)
16. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

Of these, all but the NAMLS (Nepal) are IFCC members.

Corporate Members

1. Abbott Diagnostics
2. BD Diagnostics
3. Beckman Coulter
4. Beijing Wantai, (China)
5. Bio-Rad
6. Olympus
7. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
8. Piramal Healthcare (India)
9. PM Separations (Australia)
10. Randox Laboratories
11. Roche Diagnostics
12. Sekisui Chemical Co (Japan)
13. Siemens
14. Sysmex

APFCB Officers

APFCB Executive Board:

President: Joseph Lopez (MACB, Malaysia)

Vice-President: Leslie Lai (MACB, Malaysia)

Immediate Past President: Chris Lam (HKSCC, Hong Kong)

Treasurer: Sunil Sethi (SACB, Singapore)

Secretary: Elizabeth Frank (ACBI, India)

Corporate Representative: Brian Smith (BD Diagnostics)

Chairs of APFCB Committees:

Communications: Shen Ziyu (CSLM, Mainland China)

Education: Endang Hoyaranda (IACC, Indonesia)

Laboratory Management: Samuel Vasikaran (AACB, Australia)

Scientific: Kiyoshi Ichihara (JSCC, Japan)

Hon. Auditors:

Leslie Burnett (AACB, Australia)

Jap Tjin-Shing (CACB, Taiwan)

Educational Activities

The following educational activities were undertaken by the Education Committee (C-Edu) in 2009:

Chair: Mrs Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)

Secretary: Dr Sun Fei (Mainland China)

APFCB Travelling Lectureship

2009-2010 Travelling Lectureship: The Travelling Lecturer for the period 2009-2010 is Dr Samuel Vasikaran of Perth, Australia. Dr Vasikaran is Chemical Pathologist at the PathWest-Royal Perth Hospital and Visiting Consultant at the Osteoporosis Clinic of the same hospital. Prior to this, he was the Head of Core Clinical Pathology & Biochemistry at the Royal Perth Hospital. He is concomitantly Clinical Associate Professor School of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Western Australia.

The topics offered by Dr Vasikaran are

- (I) bone markers and osteoporosis,
- (II) eGFR and markers of renal disease, and,
- (III) interpretative commentary of laboratory results.

Funding for this Travelling Lectureship will come from the APFCB's internal funds.

Dr Vasikaran presented his Travelling Lecture at the ACBI annual conference in Kochi, India in November, 2009. He is expected to visit the following countries in 2010: Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore and possibly Indonesia; in addition, Dr Vasikaran is a plenary speaker for the 12th APCCB, Korea, in 2010.

2011-2012 Travelling Lectureship: Following a survey of the membership, the APFCB EB has decided that the 2011-2012 APFCB Travelling Lectureship will have the theme "New Inflammatory makers in CKD" and the Travelling Lecturer will be Dr Angela Wang, a nephrologist from Hong Kong.

IFCC Visiting Lectureship

2008-2009 IFCC Visiting Lectureship to the APFCB region The IFCC Visiting Lecturer to the APFCB region Professor Mauro Panteghini delivered his 2009 lectures in Chengdu and at the scientific meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM) which was held from 5-7, Nov 2009, in Beijing.

Next IFCC VLP

Following a survey undertaken by the APFCB C-Edu, it was decided that an application will be made for an IFCC VL to speak in the APFCB Region on the topic of "New biomarkers for CHD", starting 2010.

APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

The lecturer for the 2009 APFCB-Beckman Educational Symposium, Professor Gunther Weiss of Innsbruck, Austria undertook a tour of 4 Asian cities in June to speak on the topic "Diagnostic Challenges in Chronic Anaemias". The itinerary of the tour and participants at each venue were as follows:

June 22: Beijing, China, symposium; about 100 participants

June 23: Travel to Hong Kong

June 24: Hong Kong symposium; about 170 participants

June 25: Hong Kong to Manila; Manila symposium; about 250 participants

June 26: Manila to HoChiMin City, Vietnam

June 27: Ho Chi Minh City symposium; about 80 participants

This was the first time that an APFCB event was organised in the Philippines by PAMET, a recent member of the Federation. Accompanying Professor Weiss throughout this seminar tour was Dr. Peter Heseltine, BC Corporate Medical Director. BC local offices worked closely with these 4 member societies for the local arrangement.

The itineraries for all three lectureships have been arranged by the C-Edu. Beckman Coulter will not organise this Symposium in 2010 but will instead concentrate on its participation in the 12th APCCB.

Laboratory Management Activities

The APFCB's activities in laboratory management are undertaken by the APFCB Laboratory Management Committee (C-LM) whose Chair is Dr Samuel Vasikaran (Australia).

Interpretative Comments Educational Program Report 2009

(contributed by Dr Sam Vasikaran)

The APFCB Interpretative Comment Educational Program was initiated in 2008 and continued with some changes in 2009. The invitation to participate in the 2009 programme was sent out in April. There were 46 registrants, including 8 from outside the APFCB region (2 from Kenya, 2 from South Africa, 1 from Trinidad and Tobago, 1 from Slovenia, 1 from Spain and 1 from East Timor). Participants were not charged a fee and all communication was through e-mail.

Five case reports were circulated between June and November. Each case report had a space for an interpretative comment to be attached by the participant. In addition, there were a series of statements (MCQs) which the participant was asked to mark as correct or incorrect. The responses were assessed by the review panel which comprised the following persons:

Dr Samuel Vasikaran (Chair, Australia)

Dr Ken Sikaris (Australia)

Dr Leslie Lai (Malaysia)

Each member of the panel gave a score out of 4 for each comment (a score of 0 indicating an incorrect and dangerous comment and a score of 4 indicating a perfect comment). The scores from the 3 panel members were added up and the participant received a total score out of 12. In addition, the responses to the MCQ statements were also marked and a score given (the total MCQ score varied depending on the number of statements).

The response rate was around 50% and remained steady throughout the year. The panel feels that further and more detailed analysis of the patterns of participant scores is warranted.

The relationship between the scores for the comment and the MCQs should be analysed, and also the cases should be circulated to different groups of doctors to assess their response to the MCQs and compare that with the response to the MCQs from the laboratory personnel. These analyses will be undertaken in due course. It is not proposed to continue the program this year as it is felt that further thought should be given after the above analyses are performed, in order to consider ways of improving the program. It is proposed that the program recommences in 2011 with the suggested improvements if the EB agrees. APFCB funding for an administrative person is gratefully acknowledged since this helped greatly in reducing the workload of the panel with regard to communicating with participants.

Workshop on Laboratory Quality, Sri Lanka (IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL)

A workshop on Laboratory Quality was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 4th and 5th April 2009. It was jointly organised by the IFCC-EMD, the APFCB and Association of Clinical Biochemists of Sri Lanka. The organisation of the event was headed by Mr Heemachandra Weer-awarna (ACBSL).

The QA workshop covered principles and practice of analytical quality together with the fundamentals of accreditation, quality systems and ISO 15189. There were 73 participants for the workshop for the QA workshop and 114 for the Interpretative Skill Educational Seminar. These figures excluded the 9 members of the organising committee and exceeded expectations. Some of the participants for the seminar on interpretative skills were physicians and professors. The panel of lecturers and the IFCC-APFCB involvement were thought to be the main attraction for their participation. Time was a major constraint, as this was a busy programme for the speakers.

The APFCB facilitated the sponsorship of the events by BioRad and BD Diagnostics, both of which are its corporate members.

Planned Activities for 2010

Workshop on Accreditation (IFCC-IACC)

A workshop on ISO15189 laboratory accreditation will be held in Jakarta in February 2010. APFCB auspices have been given for this meeting.

Application for Workshop on QA, Philippines (IFCC-APFCB-PAMET)

An application to hold a workshop on QA in the Philippines, co-sponsored by the IFCC, the APFCB and PAMET, has been made to IFCC-EMD for March 2011. This will be similar to the Sri Lanka workshop held in 2009.

Scientific Activities

APFCB Scientific Committee (C-Sci)
Chair: Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara

Reference Intervals Project (involving Japan, APFCB

and IFCC)

The 3rd Asian Project on Reference Intervals which was initiated in 2008 continued into 2009.

The sampling from healthy individuals started from the end of January, 2009. The countries that participated in this project were:

- Japan
- Mainland China
- Hong Kong and Macau
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Malaysia
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

A total of more than 3400 healthy individual are took part in the study: approximately 1500 subjects from 9 cities outside Japan (Seoul, Beijing, Taipei, Tainan, Hong Kong, Macau, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta) and about 1900 subjects from 12 areas in Japan. The collection of the last samples of the study was completed early July.

The analyses of the collected samples started in early May at Beckman-Coulter (BC) Laboratory in Tokyo and were completed at the end of July. Professor Ichihara visited four reference laboratories belonging to the JCTLM network in Europe, in March 2009, i.e. those of Professor M Panteghini, Dr F Ceriotti, Professor Siekman, Professor Linda Thienpont, and obtained collaboration to standardise the assay results from Beckman Coulter. It is expected that universal reference intervals for the standardised analytes with or without partitioning will be available. For the non-standardized analytes the investigators will adjust the Reference Intervals derived for BC reagents, based on cross-check test results between Beckman Coulter laboratory and each participating lab.

A meeting to discuss the results was held in Osaka on Friday 25th September 2009. This international symposium was on "Collaborative Derivation of Reference Interval and Data Analysis for Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine." The meeting was attended by the participants from Japan, China, Hong Kong Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam and representatives from the companies that participated in this study, namely, Beckman Coulter Japan and BD. Besides presentation by colleagues from Japan, Dr K Kuwa, Professor Y Itoh, Professor H Ihara, Professor T Kano, Professor K Kataoka, Dr K Ikeda, Dr Y Mimura, N Shimizu and, Professor Ichihara, there were also presentations from the APFCB President Joseph Lopez, Dr Xuejing Wang (China), Professor Shu-Chu Shiesh (Taiwan) and Priscilla Poon (Hong Kong).

The analyses of the results have been completed and publications from this study are expected to emerge in 2010. An expanded version of this study to cover a wider geographical area and more subjects is being planned for 2010, if funding is received.

Other Regional Activities

Membership

PAMET (Philippines): PAMET was admitted as an ordinary member of the IFCC in November.

APFCB Philanthropic Fund/APFB Scholarships

APFCB-AACB Scholarship

One APFCB-AACB Scholarship for the attendance of the AACB ASM was won by an applicant from India H V Singh from Delhi, India, who presented the poster "Emerging Biochemical Risk Markers For Coronary Artery Disease: A Case-Control Study".

Meetings

Laboratory Automation Meeting

The AACC-APFCB-MACB (Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists) Workshop on Laboratory Automation was held in Kuala Lumpur on October 22-23, 2009. IFCC auspices for this meeting were given by the Chair of the C-CC.

The workshop had 6 sessions. Among the speakers were the following persons:

- Leslie Burnett (Australia): Pre-analytical aspects of automation
- James Nichols (USA): Operational aspects of implementation - pitfalls to avoid and lessons learned
- Charles Hawker (USA): Eliminating mislabelled specimens through new technology
- Sunil Sethi (Singapore): Optimisation: increased efficiency and optimising utilization

There was also a panel discussion on the theme "Where are we going? - Industry's and lab's perspective". Industry supporters of the meeting were Abbott, Beckman Coulter, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Siemens, Sysmex and Techno Medica. The meeting was held under the auspices of the IFCC and the Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists.

Asian Pacific Conference on Chromatography & Mass Spectrometry, Hong Kong, 14-16 Jan 2010

The Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry, in collaboration with the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists and the Hong Kong Society of Mass Spectrometry held the "Asian Pacific Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography" from January 14th to 16th, 2010. This meeting had the theme "New Horizons in Clinical Chemistry" and was held in Hong Kong. The meeting was supported by the Department of Chemical Pathology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and had been given APFCB and IFCC auspices. Dr CS Ho of the HKSCC and Dr Danny Sampson, Australia of the AACB were Co-Chairs of this meeting.

12th Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (12th APCCB), Seoul, Korea, 3-8 Oct 2010

The APFB Executive Board is in contact with Professor Won-Ki Min, the Chairman of Organising Committee of the 12th APCCB. Based on recommendations from the

APFCB the International Advisory Committee has been named. Chris Lam and Joseph Lopez visited Korea to hold discussions on the congress after the Beijing meeting in November 2009.

Scientific Programme

The Organising Committee of APCCB 2010 has organised the overall scientific program of the congress. It will consist of the following sessions:

- 5 Plenary Lectures (60 minutes each).
- 28 Symposia, the duration of 12 symposia will be 120 minutes each, and other 16 symposia will be 90 minutes each.
- 8 mini Symposia, each for 60-minutes, maximum 10 Industry Symposiums, and 8 Oral Sessions
- 8 workshops will be on October 3rd from 9 AM to 3 PM

APFCB Scientific Participation at 12th APCCB

The APFCB will host a 120 minute symposium on the "The Asian Project for Joint Derivation of Reference Intervals and Exploration of Diagnostic Evidence for Laboratory Medicine". In addition, it will co-host a 4 hour workshop entitled: Educational Course: Multivariate analyses for laboratory scientists.

IFCC Participation

Besides being the APFCB triennial congress this is also an IFCC regional congress. All of the IFCC's participation is coordinated by Professor Tomris Ozben. The scientific participation will involve the following, each lasting 120 minutes:

- IFCC CPD: Electronic Communication and Distance Learning
- IFCC SD: Standardisation Activities in Endocrinology
- IFCC EMD: Predictive Medicine: A New Goal For Laboratory Medicine

Sponsorship

With the assistance of the Korean directors of global companies, the organisers visited China and Singapore in June for meeting the representatives of Asia-Pacific. For Japan, they will attend the 41st Congress of Japan Society for Clinical Laboratory Automation (JSCLA) to meet the representative of Japanese companies, to seek sponsorship.

Key dates, 2010:

Abstract submission: 31st May

Early bird registration: 15th July

Pre-registration: 31st August

Scholarships

A total of 18 scholarships will be offered for scientists to attend the 12th APCCB. Of these, 5 will be offered by the APFCB to young scientists from the region; of the 5, a maximum of 2 scholarships will be open to scientists from countries in the APFCB geographical region which are not APFCB members. These scholarships will be sponsored by the APFCB Philanthropic Fund.

APFCB Publications

APFCB News

The 2008 issue of the APFCB News was published and distributed within and outside the region.

Scientific Publications:

1. Shiesh S-C, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Kao Jau-Tsuen, Vasikaran SD, Lopez JB and the Laboratory Management Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Proficiency Testing of HbA1c: A 4-year experience in Asian and Pacific Re-gion. Clin Chem 2009; 55: 1876-80.
2. Vasikaran SD, Lai LC, Sethi S, Lopez JB, Sikaris KA. Quality of interpretative commenting on common clinical chemistry results in the Asia-Pacific region. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009; 47: 963-70.

IFCC-Regional Federations Draft Agreement

The draft of a common agreement between the IFCC and the regional federations was received by the APFCB. The matter was actively debated by the Executive Board and Chairs before it was circularised to the APFCB members.

Fifteen out of the 16 APFCB members responded to the vote on the draft agreement. All were in favour of the agreement, in principle. However there was much discussion on the clause in the draft relating to the remittance from the regional congresses (APCCB) to the IFCC. The APFCB members have voted to offer the IFCC 10% of the surplus income from the APCCBs, an increase from 5% as stipulated in the current agreement. The APFCB Council members rejected by a large majority the suggestion that the APFCB should offer a percentage of the gross income from the registrations and exhibition.

APFCB Strategic Plan

The APFCB EB has appointed a Task Force consisting of the following to draw up a strategic plan for the Federation to carry us for the next 6 to 10 years. The following have been appointed to the Task Force:

Joseph LOPEZ (Malaysia; Chair)
Leslie BURNETT (Australia)
Endang HOYARANDA (Indonesia)
Leslie LAI (Malaysia)
Samuel VASIKARAN (Australia)

The Task Force will hold its first meeting in Perth, Australia at the end of January 2010.

APFCB Corporate Members

The APFCB currently has 14 Corporate Members, with the application of one more currently under consideration. The Corporate Members provided the following sponsorships during the year 2009:

No.	Company	Activity
1.	BD Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka• Reference Intervals project
2.	Bio-Rad	IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka
3.	Beckman-Coulter	APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

APFCB Management

- As in previous years, the APFCB received a grant of CHF 10,000 from the IFCC for its activities.
- The AFPCB is domiciled in Singapore and the management of its financial and regulatory matters is handled by its office in Singapore. The finances of the APFCB remain healthy.
- One of the important changes made in 2009 was to change the start of financial year from 1st August to 1st January. This was done so that the financial year and the annual activity cycle will start at the same time.
- A simple budget for the year was developed for the first time. The projected income exceeded the expenses by a small margin.

Joseph Lopez
APFCB President

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (EFCC)

General Assembly and Executive Board

The General Assembly (GA) of EFCC was held in June in Innsbruck, where the new executive board (EB) of EFCC was also elected. Current officers of the EB are as follows:

Past President: Vic Blaton (Belgium)
President: Andrea Rita Horvath (Hungary)
President-Elect: Ian Watson (United Kingdom)
Secretary: Hans van Pelt (The Netherlands)
Treasurer: Peter Schuff-Werner (Germany)
Member-at-Large: Kari Pulkki (Finland)
Member-at-Large: Mario Pazzagli (Italy)

EFCC received applications from the French, Italian and Swedish National Societies to host EuroMedLab 2013 in Paris, Milan or Stockholm. The decision was taken at the EFCC GA in Innsbruck, and voting has concluded that Euromedlab 2013 will be held in Milan.

The EB contacted national societies to submit their priorities for the strategic and activity plans of EFCC for its next term of 2010-2011. The EB also drafted a key document that outlines the structure, procedures and rules of operation of EFCC. The EFCC EB met three times in 2009: in Milan (31 January - 1 February), Innsbruck (7 June) and Split (4-5 October). The following is a report of the year's activities.

Structure and Constitution

EFCC developed its structure further and established a new Committee for Public and Professional Relations. In addition, new working groups have been or are being established or reorganized. The current structure and a detailed description of key activities are described in the attached document and can also be found on EFCC's website (www.efcclm.eu).

Chairs of Committees:

Scientific: Sverre Sandberg (NO)

Education and Training: Elizabeta Topic (HR)

Quality Management: Jean-Claude Libeer (BE) - appointed in 2009

Professional: Simone Zerah (FR)

Public and Professional Relations: Mariam Klouche (DE) - appointed in 2009

Finance: Peter Schuff-Werner (DE)

The terms of reference for all committees (C) and working groups (WG) are now agreed. Working group structure has been revised, based on annual reporting and clarification of future tasks, activities and deliverables. Working groups submitted annual activity and budget plans for 2010 which form the basis of EFCC's proposal for 2010.

In addition to WGs, project groups (PG) are formulated for tasks which have dedicated funding, mostly from EU granting bodies (e.g. SPIDIA - established - and EUMETALAB - in preparation). It has been approved by the EB that from 2010, Task and Finish Groups (TFG) can be formulated for specific, well-focused tasks under the umbrella of certain WGs. Proposals for TFGs were submitted by National Societies and their establishment is pending on availability of funding.

Work Programme

Education and Training Committee

The Committee reorganized its structure and merged 3 of its former working groups (i.e. WG Congresses and Conferences, WG-Postgraduate Education, WG-Distance Education) into two, i.e. WG-Conferences and Postgraduate Education (WG-CPE) and WG-DE.

WG-Conferences and Postgraduate Education carried out the below activities:

- Two EFCC sessions at EuroMedLab 2009 in Innsbruck; one by the Cardiac Markers WG and the other by the Accreditation WG.
- 17th Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation. Ohrid, September 16-19th 2009.
- 5th EFCC Symposium for Balkan Region. Proteins: from electrophoresis to proteomics. Belgrade, October 7-10 2009. All lectures of the 5th EFCC Symposium are published in *Journal of Medical Biochemistry* 2009; 28: 221-307 (www.versita.com; www.dmbj.org.rs). Report by N. Majkic-Singh, and V. Blaton is available at: www.efcclm.eu/report_efcc_symposia.htm
- IFCC-EFCC Course on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, 7-11 October, Supetar, Croatia. The course

was organized by IFCC's C-EBLM but former members of this committee, who are currently EFCC officers (namely S. Sandberg, W. Oosterhuis and AR. Horvath), participated in the delivery of the course as speakers and facilitators. EFCC financially supported the course as well.

- 9th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid Diseases. Dubrovnik, October 25-26, 2009. The handbook of this event has been produced and made available on EFCC's website. *New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid diseases, Handbook: Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 2009.*
- The handbook of the 2008 Dubrovnik course was published in *eJIFCC: New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Kidney Diseases. eJIFCC 2009; vol 20 number 1.* Negotiations have been started with CCLM to publish next year's course handbook materials as a special edition of the journal.
- EFCC officers attended and supported various national society meetings (e.g. in Croatia, and the Balkan Federation).
- Preparations are under way for organising the First European Joint Congress of EFCC and UEMS with the 1st Portuguese Joint Congress of Laboratory Medicine, to be held in Lisbon, on 14-17 October 2010. EFCC officers are delegated into the organizing and scientific committee of the conference. Conference details can be found on: www.lisboncongress2010.org/.
- EFCC is represented in the Scientific Advisory Board of Worldlab and EuroMedLab 2011. EFCC officers actively take part in shaping the program of this conference by proposing plenary and symposia sessions as well as assessing the proposals submitted to the organizers.

WG-Distance Education carried out the following activities:

- Joint Symposium on Accreditation with SFBC, sponsored by BioRad, on 12-13 February 2009, in Paris. Videoconference was set up with participation of the Hungarian and Croatian national societies. EFCC officers (namely, M. Hallworth, W. Huisman, J-C Libeer and via video-links, E. Topic and AR Horvath) attended the meeting as speakers. B. Gouget and C. Giroud are acknowledged for initiation, fundraising, organizational support and promotion of this very successful activity. Publications related to this activity:
 - Proceedings of the 1st symposium on accreditation (paper version and e-version on www.efcclm.eu, www.qcnet.com/tabid/6654/Default.aspx).
 - Editorial in *Lab Medica International*: EN ISO 15189 accreditation of medical labs for proven EU-level quality.
- The WG proposed webinars as a new tool for EFCC's educational activities. Workplans have been submitted to EFCC EB, and preparation of this activity and negotiations with various publishers (e.g. Elsevier) are under way. Members and chair of this WG are to be appointed officially in 2010. First deliverables are expected in 2010, depending on availability of funding support.

Science Committee

- Current active working and project groups are:
 - WG-creatinine standardization - 'inherited' from EC4
 - WG-cardiac markers - 'inherited' from EC4
 - WG-biological variation - established in 2009
 - WG-guidelines - established in 2009
 - PG-SPIDIA on preanalytics in molecular testing (EU funded)
 - PG-EUMETALAB on biobanking (not yet EU funded, grant proposal in preparation)
- New WGs have been proposed and established on Test Evaluation and on Post-analytical EQAS in October 2009. These will start their activities in 2010.
- New TFGs were proposed by national societies for Lupus anticoagulant testing and for Cardiovascular risk.
- New joint WG or TFG proposed by the European Thrombosis Research Organization (ETRO) on various coagulation topics.
- Discussions have been initiated by IFCC in Innsbruck to set up an international joint group on PoCT. EFCC is represented in these discussions by Sverre Sandberg and Ian Watson.
- Assessment of new proposals is under way and if approved these could be established as TFGs under existing WGs. Establishment of new TFGs also depends on budget situation in 2010.

WG-Creatinine Standardization carried out the following activities:

- The WG had a meeting in Innsbruck in June 2009, which was attended by an observer from South America (Dr. Stella Raymondo, Uruguay).
- Inventory of clinical problems due to global creatinine standardisation. The analytical improvement has far reaching clinical consequences (e.g. GFR determination, drug dosage calculation, MELD score).
The landscape of eGFR formulas is getting more and more complex. In 2009, the new CK-EPI formula has been presented. There is a serious risk that derived formulas, e.g. the Schwartz formula in children, the MELD score calculation in liver transplantation) might suffer from restandardisation and inappropriate use of new formulas. The WG focuses on these unwanted side effects and prepares an inventory of existing clinical problems.
- Studying result comparability for serum creatinine within Europe (and its consequences).

WG-Cardiac Markers carried out the following activities:

- The WG had a meeting in Innsbruck in 2009.
- The aim of the group was to survey the practice of using cardiac markers in different countries, e.g. which cardiac markers are used, what are their decision limits, interpretation of results and the effect of practice on patient outcomes. After an initial pilot survey, the results of which were presented in 2

recent publications and at several conferences, the WG currently is performing an updated and more extensive survey on the use and implementation of cardiac markers in European countries. The survey was sent, with the help of IFCC Office, to the National Representatives and Presidents of EFCC National Societies in May 2009. The survey is available on the website of <http://www.carmague.fi/2/>.

- Preliminary results were presented during the EuroMedLab in Innsbruck in June 2009.
- Reminders have been sent in July and September 2009. By September 2009 the WG received only 176 responses from 17 different countries.
- The WG has also received requests from Canada and US to participate in the survey. After consultations with the Chair of IFCC Scientific Committee, M. Panteghini, the WG will expand the survey to Canada and US.
- Publication: Pulkki K, Suvisaari J, Collinson P, Ravkilde J, Stavljenic-Rukavina A, Hammerer-Lercher A, Baum H, van Dieijen-Visser MP, Laitinen P. A pilot survey of the use and implementation of cardiac markers in acute coronary syndrome and heart failure across Europe. The CARdiac MArker Guideline Uptake in Europe (CARMAGUE) study. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2009;47(2):227-34.

WG-Biological Variation carried out the following activities:

- This WG was established in 2009, therefore it is just gaining speed in terms of activities.
- Key activities include:
 - Development of a critical appraisal checklist to enable assessment and scoring of biological variation publications and develop quality specifications for the data sets.
 - Identification of some key targets for application and to look at the utility of the check-list.
- A web domain name (www.Biologicalvariation.com) has been purchased to enable the work of the group. This can be developed as a source site for those wishing to use and apply biological variation data. Further discussions around content will be undertaken by the group, but content may include the following:
 - Web enabled critical appraisal checklist to assess whether published biological variation data sets meet minimum quality specifications.
 - Data base of data sets/publications that meet criteria.
 - Tools for enabling statistical analysis of data.
- In 2010, the main aim will be to develop and assess methods of meta-analysis of published biological variation data and to investigate whether this can be used to deliver robust estimates of biological variation indices for wider practical application.
- The group will meet in November/December in Amsterdam to develop these further for publication in 2010.

WG-Guidelines carried out the following activities:

- The WG is one of the joint activities of EFCC and UEMS Section of Medical Biopathology. This WG was established in 2009 and therefore it is just gaining speed in terms of activities.
- The WG had 2 meetings in 2009, one in June in Innsbruck and another one in November in Amsterdam.
- Activities are directed towards performing a study on the quality aspects of diagnostic recommendations in terms of evidence-based methodology. By a review of guidelines the WG wishes to investigate how laboratory medicine-related aspects are covered in different guidelines. This is expected to lead to recommendations on essential laboratory issues that need to be covered in diagnostic guidelines. Additionally, the WG is exploring the possibility of "EFCC guidelines". For EFCC approved guidelines, a formal procedure is needed. The WG is exploring the need for such guidelines and formal procedures and intends to prepare a procedure manual, if such need arises from national societies.
- The WG also prepares a study on the application of self-monitoring blood glucose as an example of a test that is introduced without evidence of its clinical efficacy. Peter Bunting from C-EBLM of IFCC was asked to join this effort.
- Future plans include a study on reflective testing, based on some preliminary initiatives (www.reflectivetesting.com).

PG-SPIDIA carried out the following activities:

- SPIDIA is an EU supported grant on standardization of the preanalytical phase in molecular testing (www.spidia.eu). EFCC is involved in the dissemination of the activities of the SPIDIA project.
- Development and implementation of the web site for the SPIDIA applications within the www.efcclm.eu web site. Funding of this activity is provided by the EU grant.
- A meeting within SPIDIA has been organized at Hilden (Germany) in March 2009.
- Letter of EFCC president to national society presidents and representatives has been sent to promote the SPIDIA project and to encourage application for participation in a free ring trial on preanalytical quality assessment in molecular biology testing.

PG-EUMETALAB carried out the following activities:

- A new FP7 call, HEALTH2010 1.1-1, was issued in July 2009 that addresses the harmonization of multivariate phenotypes in complex diseases in the biobanking context. In response to the call, EUMetaLAB had launched a consortium called EUMetaQUAL in Innsbruck, in order to prepare a successful application.
- EUMetaLAB has teamed up with other international groups interested in the call and (mainly clinically integrated i.e. disease-oriented) biobanks. With the assistance of the chair, M. Neumaier, an application to HEALTH2010 1.1-1 call, named "BioBanking Quality Assurance and Data Acquisition" (BBQADA), is being prepared.
- EFCC has been requested to join the scientific advisory board, next to EUROAGENTEST, EMQN, ILAC and EDMA, with a role in ensuring the quality of guidelines and recommendations, and to assist in the coordination of the EQA structures through the national societies within EFCC.

Quality Management Committee

The committee's leadership had to be changed as the formerly appointed chair, Mario Plebani, resigned from this position. This halted the progress of this committee for a while in 2009. Jean-Claude Libeer was appointed new chair of the committee and the new terms of reference for this C and its new WG on IVD Directive have been formulated. Currently the C has two WGs: the long-established Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG and the IVD WG.

Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG carried out the following activities:

- The WG met once in 2009, in Innsbruck.
- The Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG continues effective collaboration with European Accreditation agency and ISO TC 212 on implementation and development of ISO 15189 and related standards.
- Very recently IFCC proposed a joint EFCC-EA and IFCC-ILAC collaboration and the WG will represent EFCC in this endeavour.
- The WG produced a "Questionnaire concerning the assessment process of medical laboratories" which was sent to all EFCC member societies. Summary of the survey in form of a publication is under way.
- The WG contributed to presentations at the Accreditation Symposium in Paris (David Burnett, Anders Kallner, Jean-Claude Libeer and Wim Huisman).
- The group is actively involved in the Health Care Committee of the EA and produced a guidance paper on accreditation by the flexible scope, which is now accepted by the General Assembly of EA.
- The WG actively comments and successfully influences the content of draft documents produced by EA, ILAC and TC212. Areas of recent special interest have been traceability, method validation and uncertainty of measurement.
- Future plans include:
 - Training courses and materials for the (professional) assessors in cooperation with the Education and Training Committee of EFCC.
 - Guidance on retention of documents in medical laboratories.

WG-IVD carried out the following activities:

This is a new WG which is still open for membership and has just recently established its terms of reference as follows:

- To interpret and harmonize the use of the EU IVD Directive in laboratory practice and during accreditation of laboratories in Europe.
- To provide guidance for laboratories, vendors and assessors on the requirements for the documentation (needed in the scope of accreditation) for installation and preventive maintenance of equipment.
- To provide guidelines for the set-up of method validation reports in different fields of laboratory medicine.

To achieve the above, the WG intends to

- produce guidelines for the traceability of calibrations and measurements performed by IVD and other equipment providers during preventive maintenance interventions and during installation.
- define minimum validation criteria to be reported for IVDs used according to (1) the manufacturer's recommendations; (2) modified methods; (3) in-house developed methods.

In addition, the WG represents EFCC in the European Commission "Exploratory process on medical devices" in its Workstream 3 expert group on "Competitiveness and innovation".

Professional Committee

The Professional Committee currently has one permanent Working Group:

WG EC4 Register Commission carried out the following activities:

- The EC4 Register is accepted as an EC-approved self-regulation initiative by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), raising the profile of clinical chemistry at EU level and providing a common basis for assessing laboratory professionals across the European Union. The Register is included on the EESC/SMO (European Economic and Social Committee/Single Market Observatory) database and website (www.eesc.europa.eu/self-and-coregulation/index.asp/full.asp?ID=121) and the next aim is to achieve Co-regulation.
- The remit of this WG and C is to lobby for co-regulation and recognition of the Register at European Commission/Parliament level. The committee oversees the work of the Register Commission via the independently funded Foundation Board and reports to the EFCC Executive Board.
- The WG met twice in 2009; at Euromedlab in Innsbruck in June and in Paris in November.
- EC4RC has membership in CEPLIS and regularly attends the meetings of its Working Group on Healthcare and represents EFCC at their General Assembly (last GA was in May 2009).
- Revision of the EC4 Syllabus is about to start with the involvement of the Education and Training Committee of EFCC.
- The WG has been preparing a survey on the training and responsibilities of scientists and medical specialists in all European countries. The EFCC Education and Training Committee and the Professional Committee are working with UEMS to design the survey with the ultimate aim of a joint publication.
- The WG revised and updated its Code of Conduct which was published in Clin Chem Lab Med in March 2009 and is also available on the EC4 website (www.ec4register.eu). A copy of the publication had been sent to the Presidents of national societies recommending acceptance. A disciplinary procedure is required as an adjunct to the Code of Conduct and this will be prepared in 2010.
- The Guide to the Register has been revised and

should be published in Clin Chem Lab Med early in 2010.

- Ongoing activities are a web-supported application procedure and re-registration of members whose membership in the EC4 Register has expired. The Netherlands society has agreed to pilot a scheme to automatically link EC4 registration to its national register, so that an applicant would be registered immediately with EC4 when they are placed on the national register.
- There are currently over 2200 registrants from 20 countries on the EC4 Register.
- The C and its WG operate the EC4 website (www.ec4register.eu) which is separately administered and funded by the EC4 Foundation. A revision of the website was undertaken in 2009. There is a direct link from the EFCC website to the EC4 website and vice versa.
- Publication: McMurray J, Zérah S, Hallworth M et al. The European Register of Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine: Code of Conduct, Version 2-2008. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009;47(3):372-375.

Public and Professional Relations Committee

This C was officially established in October 2009. PR activities, such as EFCC News and website, were previously coordinated by the EB and with the assistance of B. Gouget. For the increasing activities of EFCC, it became essential to form a PPR committee and the EB appointed Mariam Klouche as chair.

The Committee's responsibilities are summed up in its terms of reference:

- To communicate EFCC's activities and results to member societies, partners and the public.
- To edit and issue the EFCC Newsletter and other promotional materials.
- To edit, regularly update and maintain EFCC's website (www.efccim.eu).
- To coordinate EFCC's publications via its official journal, CCLM
- To support the European editorial board of Labtests Online, in collaboration with EDMA.
- The Newsletter is intended to be published quarterly. EFCC News editor is B. Gouget
- After long deliberation and failure of the IFCC website and web editor to set up EFCC's website, EFCC EB decided to appoint the EC4 webmaster, Holger Everding of DTP Studios (Germany), to also develop EFCC's website. The new EFCC website (www.efccim.eu) had been launched on 7 June 2009 at Euromedlab. The EB appointed Camelia Grigore (Romania) as EFCC's website content editor. EFCC's website is thus independently operated from the IFCC website but with IFCC's financial support, and on a contractual basis.
- After long deliberation and failure of the IFCC website and web editor to set up EFCC's website, EFCC EB decided to appoint the EC4 webmaster, Holger Everding of DTP Studios (Germany), to also develop EFCC's website.

The new EFCC website (www.efcclm.eu) had been launched on 7 June 2009 at Euromedlab. The EB appointed Camelia Grigore (Romania) as EFCC's website content editor. EFCC's website is thus independently operated from the IFCC website but with IFCC's financial support, and on a contractual basis.

- The Committee also supports the European editorial board of LabTests Online which, in collaboration with EDMA, provides information to European patients on laboratory testing in Czech, French, English, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, and Spanish languages. The Portuguese version is under construction.
- The official scientific journal of EFCC is Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM). EFCC has been negotiating a draft agreement with the Publisher, Walter de Gruyter & Co. KG, which will take effect from 2010 onwards.
- EFCC related promotional publications, by courtesy of B. Gouget, in the EFCC Corner of Labmedica International:
 - Editorial: EN ISO 15189 accreditation of medical labs for proven EU-level quality. Labmedica p38 vol 26 n°1,2-34 /2009
 - Creativity in the spotlight of EFCC. Labmedica p38 vol26 n°2,4 /2009
 - EU elections and the need for common health standards. Labmedica p40 vol26 n°3,5 /2009
 - Clean hands, Clean conscience. Labmedica p48 vol26 n°4,6-7 /2009
 - Young lab med scientists in pursuit of serendipity. Labmedica p32 vol26 n°5, 9-10 /2009

Final Committee

Separate EFCC sub-account has been established. IFCC EB has decided that the IFCC grant to EFCC will be handled by IFCC Treasurer and office at the advice of EFCC Treasurer, while the EFCC sub-account is managed by the EFCC Treasurer but handles only EFCC's own income from other sources. This dual accountancy has imposed significant administration on all parties involved and made management of EFCC funds extremely bureaucratic, tedious and frustrating. EFCC wishes to propose to IFCC to agree to only one self-managed EFCC sub-account to decrease the burden, costs of administration and time spent on financial management of accounts.

Subscriptions to EFCC for 2009 have been collected from most member societies (many thanks to Lisa Ionescu at IFCC office for her efforts!).

Budget for 2010 has been prepared and submitted. Funding from external sources has been sought continuously. Corporate membership in EFCC has been considered, but the EB agreed, after consultations with EDMA and some corporate representatives, that sponsorship should be in form of dedicated projects and activities rather than in the form of a regular membership. Negotiations are under way with companies to sponsor specific activities of EFCC in the future.

Relationship with Other Organizations

IFCC:

EFCC EB has been working on a draft agreement with IFCC EB in order to formalize the relationship of IFCC with its regional federations. The guideline on EuroMedLab conferences forms an integral part of these negotiations. The draft agreement will be discussed with IFCC executive committee and representatives of other regional federations at the General Conference of IFCC in 2010 in Corfu.

IFCC proposed joint collaboration in the below fields which is strongly supported by EFCC:

- accreditation, together with EFCC-EA and IFCC-ILAC. The WG on Accreditation/ISO-CEN will represent EFCC in this joint activity.
- PoCT - EFCC's science committee supports this initiative.

Terms of reference for both groups need to be determined in 2010.

UEMS:

EFCC has strengthened its collaboration with UEMS in 2009:

- The first EFCC-UEMS joint congress is scheduled for October 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal.
- A joint survey on training of clinical chemists in Europe is planned by the C-ET, the EC4RC and UEMS Biopathology Section.
- The WG-Guidelines is also set up as a joint EFCC-UEMS activity.

EDMA:

- Collaboration continues with EDMA on Lab Tests Online European sites. France launched its LTO site in November 2009. Portuguese version is also expected soon.
- EFCC and EDMA take part in the European Commission initiated "Exploratory process on the future of the medical devices sector" meetings. The aim of this initiative is to map the existing industrial and public health challenges in the sector and investigate possible topics of reflection at the European level. EFCC was invited to all three work stream groups of this initiative to represent the views of the laboratory profession in Europe. Three meetings are held by the EC in Brussels and attendance of EFCC officers at these meetings is covered by the EU. In 2009, EFCC officers attended two meetings, one in October for presidents of invited organizations, and the other for experts in the 3 work stream groups. It was agreed that the key areas identified at this meeting series can form the basis of future collaboration with EDMA as well.

Journals and Publishers:

- EFCC has strengthened its relationship with CCLM and will sign a formal agreement with the Publisher, Walter de Gruyter & Co. KG, which will take effect from 2010 onwards. EFCC C-ET prepared the ground for publishing special editions of CCLM, based on publications related to EFCC symposia and postgraduate courses.
- WG-DE is negotiating about the establishment of EFCC webinars with the Publisher Elsevier.

Awards

Nominations for EFCC's Roche Award to a clinical chemist who has made a major contribution to European Clinical Chemistry were sought from National Societies. The EFCC-Roche Scientific Award for Laboratory Medicine for 2009 was most deservedly awarded and presented to Rob Jansen in Innsbruck.

A new award, the EFCC-Abbott Labs are Vital Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine, was announced at Euromedlab in Innsbruck. The launch of this new award was also announced in CCLM. The first award will be granted at EuromedLab 2011 in Berlin.

Andrea Rita Horvath
EFCC President

ARAB FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (AFCB)

Arab Federation's activity consists in year 2009 of three training courses & workshops: Quality management: December 2009, Algeria, Molecular Biology: May 2009, Tunisia, Quality management: November 2009, Jordan. Regional Conference, the 12th Arab MedLab was held on October 2009 in Lebanon AFCB Member Societies had their national meetings during the year.

During 2009 AFCB organized 2 EB meetings: in May in Algeria and in October in Lebanon. The main topics of these meetings were: election of the new Executive Board, which will be chaired by Lebanon (MedLab hosting country) until the coming 13th Arab MedLab in Morocco, May 2012. Sudan has been nominated to host the 14th Arab MedLab in 2015. A new scientific committee, chaired by Prof. Abdel Razzak Hedili (Tunisia) has been appointed. This committee is charged to foster continuing education through the planning and organizing educational training sessions and workshops, in the different countries that are member of the Federation.

AFCB has maintained good relation with IFCC and all regional federations, and with WHO- regional office.

Dr Imad M Itani
AFCB President

LATIN-AMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (COLABIOCLI)

Meetings

Member Societies of COLABIOCLI have organized several meetings during 2009. National Meeting of the Mexican Society of Clinical Chemistry was organized in Veracruz, México on March 2009, with collaboration of Dra. Ana Leticia Maselli as Visiting Lecturer. XIX Latin American Meeting of Clinical Pathology, organized by Cuban Society of Clinical Pathology was held in Cuba on April 2009. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Executive Board of COLABIOCLI. The topic of the meetings was Quality Management System. National Meeting of Nicaragua Society of Clinical Microbiologist was held in Nicaragua on July 4, in memory TM Mario Nelson Picado. The topic of the meeting was National regulations: License of clinical laboratories and scientific activities. A meeting of regulation of reagents was held in Toronto, Canada on Standardization of local regulations of reagents and materials for the use of the clinical laboratories in Latin America. A National Meeting of Bolivian Society was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia on September 2009, the topic was "Training how to audit based on ISO 19011". 45 Clinical chemists of México, Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba and Dominican Republican attended. The Peruvian Society of Clinical Laboratory Professionals Meeting was held on October 13-16, 2009 in Lima, Perú.

The topic of the meeting was Strategies to implement External Quality Assessment in Clinical Laboratories. The 10th Argentinian CUBRA National Meeting was held on November 11-14 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The topic was Regulations, projects and activities for Latin-American countries from COLABIOCLI. The VIII Uruguayan Meeting of Clinical Biochemistry was held on November 13-15, 2009 in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the XIX Dominican Republic National Meeting of Clinical Laboratory Professionals was held on November 26-28, 2009. The topic of these meetings was "Strategies to implement External Quality Assessment in Clinical Laboratories".

Education

Second Course for audits in Quality Management system was organized on August in Panama, with collaboration of PAHO. A long distance Course in Quality Management is organized on October 2009-June 2010, the topic being "Quality Management System for 200 Latin American directors in Clinical Laboratories". An important collaborator as virtual classroom for this course is the Argentinean Foundation of Biochemistry (FABA).

Regional Relations

A workshop of future projects and activities with the Presidents of the National Societies of Clinical Chemists was held during the Course of Audit in Quality Management in the North and Central America and Caribbean area.

International Relations

There is a strategic plan with PAHO/WHO for 4 years to effect the regulations of clinical laboratories, External Quality Assessment and Implement Quality Management System in clinical laboratories. COLABIOCLI, in collaboration with IFCC works to improve external quality programs in Latin American laboratories by organizing visiting.

Ana Leticia Maselli
COLABIOCLI President

AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (AFCC)

The inauguration of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry took place 25-28 October 2009 in Ibadan, Nigeria and was combined with the 5th Biennial Scientific Conference of Nigeria. Prof Vanessa Steenkamp was elected as the first President of the AFCC. The Secretary is Prof E.O. Agbedana of Nigeria and the Treasurer, Dr Ikamari of Kenya. At the time of the inauguration Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan and Tunisia were member societies of the AFCC. Subsequently, Algeria has also joined. The first meeting of the AFCC will take place during the General Meeting in Corfu.

Vanessa Steenkamp
AFCC President

IFCC Annual Report 2009 has been compiled and edited by Päivi Laitinen, Secretary of IFCC from the reports of the respective IFCC Officers and Regional Federations.

FULL MEMBER SOCIETIES



ALGERIA

ASSOCIATION DES LABORATOIRES D'ANALYSES MEDICALES

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
1 ^{er} Congres algerien de Biologie clinique	May 2-3, 2009	Tuberculosis - diabetes - molecular biology
Education		
Course on Quality in clinical biology, held at the Institute Pasteur of Algeria, Sidi Fredj, Algiers, January 27-28, 2009.		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Quality in Clinical Biology	January 27-28, 2009	Organization
Regional relations		
ALAM is a Member of the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology and organized an Arab course on Quality With the participation of Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians and Syrians.		
International relations		
ALAM is a Member of the Federation internationale francophone de biologie clinique et medecine de laboratoire (FIFBCML) and organized the 2 nd Journees in Algiers 2-3 May 2009.		



AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS INC

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
RCPA AACB Chemical Pathology Course	February 23-27, 2009	Clinical and technical laboratory medicine
WASPaLM Satellite Meeting	March 12, 2009	Workforce Crisis
RCPA Pathology Update	March 13-15, 2009	Sponsored keynote speaker, Robert Michel
AACB Scientific Education Seminar	March 20, 2009	POCT
AACB Scientific Education Seminar	May 1, 2009	Analytical quality
AACB IVD Industry Education Course	June 16-17, 2009	Clinical & technical lab medicine aimed at Industry members
Cardiac Society AACB Satellite Meeting	August 12, 2009	Troponin – Overseas invited speakers Robert Christenson, Alan Jaffe
AACB Annual Scientific Conference	September 14-17, 2009	Overseas Keynote Speakers: Jack Ladenson, Graham Beastall, Larry Broussard, Barbara Goldsmith
AACB Careers Workshop	September 18 2009	Workforce and management issues – featuring Graham Beastall
AACB/Dark Report "The Business of Pathology"	November 17-18, 2009	Healthcare Reform, "Lean & Green", The Consumer, The Professions

Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-based weekly CPD tutorials preparing for MAACB & FAACB examinations • State-based monthly scientific meetings • Roman Lectures – Dr Michael Crooke (NZ) throughout Australia & NZ, August 2009 • Current Concepts Lectures (Pharmacogenomics) during October & November 2009 • Contribution to Human Genetics Society of Australia annual meeting, May 2009 • Joint scientific meetings with Australian Institute of Medical Scientists, during 2009 		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Lab Automation, Kuala Lumpur	October 22-23, 2009	AACB President, Prof Leslie Burnett – invited speaker
APCCMS, Hong Kong	January 14-16, 2010	Assisted program development Directly funded speakers Provided scholarships
Regional relations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued with assistance to Vietnam in setting up external QC program, with support of IFCC • Active member of APFCB • Many of our members speak independently in the region 		
International relations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFCC – contribution to committees and working groups from many AACB members • Executive meetings with Association for Clinical Biochemistry, FOCUS May 2009 and AACC Chicago Meeting July 2009 • President, Prof Leslie Burnett attended EuroMedLab, Innsbruck • Partnering with “Pathologists Overseas” on quality assurance project 		



AUSTRIA

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR LABORATORIUMSMEDIZIN UND KLINISCHE CHEMIE - ÖGLMKC AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE AND CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
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National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
EuroMedLab Innsbruck - 18 th IFCC - EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine National Congress of the Austrian Society of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry	June 7-11, 2009	Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry
Education		
Regular educational meetings organized by the young members of the society		



BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ANALYSES (SBAC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
36 th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analyses	June 14-18, 2009	
Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBAC e-learning courses; • post graduation courses; • updating courses; p.s.: all the courses are held at the head quarters of the national SBAC and at the regional ones spread all over brazil		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
2 nd Regional Congress of Clinical Analyses of the Southeast	October 14-17, 2009	
7 th Regional Congress of Clinical Analyses of the Northeast		
Regional relations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In contact with AACC, we project a continuar education in Ecuador, which will be held in March 2010. • Round table: ISO 15189 in latinamericana, 03/25/2010. • External quality evaluation for the clinical laboratories of Brazil, 03/26/2010. 		
International relations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EuroMedLab: Austria, June, 2009 • AACC Annual Meeting: Chicago, July, 2009 		



CANADA

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
2009 CSCC/AACC Joint Conference	July 19-23, 2009	Annual Conference and Lab Expo
Coming up		
2010 CSCC Annual Conference	June 13-16, 2010	"Plain Science on the Prairies"
Satellite Symposium	June 17, 2010	HbA1c
2011 CSCC joint Conference with Canadian Association of Pathologists	June 4-8, 2011	Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress
Education		
<p>CSCC Education Roundtable webinars were again held twice a month from October 2008 to May 2009. There were 17 sessions each one hour in length. Participants were encouraged to invite additional people from their institution to attend the meeting. Sessions averaged about 40-50 phone lines and 200-250 participants.</p> <p>2009 CSCC Travelling Lectureship – the 2009 lecturer was Dr. Eric Kilpatrick from UK, who spoke on HbA1c. Dr. Kilpatrick gave his lecture in 5 cities across Canada in October 2009. The lectureship was sponsored by Bio-Rad Laboratories.</p> <p>A webinar on Critical Values and Actionable Knowledge in the 21st Century was presented by Dr. Gerald Kost, USA. This webinar is sponsored by Instrumentation Laboratory.</p>		

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
International Congress of TDM and Clinical Toxicology	October 3-8, 2009	Members helped with organization. CSCC was a Bronze sponsor
Regional relations		
CSCC will hold their annual conference jointly with AACC on a 4-year cycle basis. They will hold a joint conference with the Canadian Association of Pathologists in 2011 and are currently working to put in place a 4-year cycle basis. The intervening years will be "stand-alone" conferences.		
International relations		
CSCC has several members serving on IFCC Committees. CSCC continues to nominate candidates for positions as they become available.		
CSCC is supporting the IFCC fees of the Cuban Society.		
2009 CSCC International Exchange Grants sponsored by Roche were granted to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Vinita Thakur, India – Dr. Thakur visited CSCC member Dr. A. Khajuria in her laboratory in Edmonton Canada in September 2009 		
Mr. Trefor Higgins, CSCC member – Trefor will travel to Uruguay and give a plenary lecture on HbA1c at the national meeting of the Uruguayan Clinical Chemistry Society in November 2009 in Montevideo, as well as visit several hospitals.		



CHILE

SOCIEDAD CHILENA DE QUÍMICA CLÍNICA (SCHQC)

Education		
Workshop: Mechanisms and phenotypic detection of antimicrobial resistance in bacterial species of major clinical importance. August 19-29, 2009, Santiago-Chile		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
4 th International Conference on Quality (Mexico)	July 15, 2009	Local auspices
Regional relations		
Our society is organizing the 19 th Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry. April 20 th -23 rd 2010.		

CHINA

CHINESE SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 8 th National Conference of Laboratory Medicine and CSLM 30 th anniversary celebration	November 5-7, 2009	Review on the development of CSLM in past 30 years. Presentations on the updated knowledge of Laboratory Medicine

		and Laboratory Management. Celebration activities for the 30 th anniversary of Chinese Society of Laboratory medicine. More than 20 international guests were invited to attend the meeting.
National conference of hematology diagnosis	November, 2009	Hematology analysis and cell morphology analysis and training.
National conference of clinical chemistry	July, 2009	Chemistry tests, quality control and laboratory management. Key topic: renal diseases and metabolic diseases.
National conference of clinical immunology diagnosis	July, 2009	Immunology tests, diagnosis, quality control and laboratory management.
The 9 th Chinese Laboratory medicine conference	July, 2009	This conference was co-organized by Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. The papers were presented by oral and poster presentations.

Education

Seminar: Laboratory diagnosis on fungi infection.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
APFCB-Beckman Coulter Education Symposium	July 23, 2009	APFCB and CSLM

Regional relations

APFCB: support APFCB for regional symposium. Invited the APFCB key persons attending national conference.

International relations

IFCC: Invited IFCC key persons attending national conference gave presentations to Chinese colleagues.
AACC: Signed contract with AACC, translated LTO (Lab Tests Online) website into Chinese.



CROATIA

CROATIAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS (CSMB)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
20 th Symposium of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists	May 7, 2009	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – biochemical features
Ceremonial pre-congress symposium in honour of Prof. Elizabeta Topić	September 30, 2009	Keeping pace with ongoing changes – laboratory diagnostics today and tomorrow
6 th Croatian Congress of Medical Biochemists with international participation	September 30 - October 4, 2009	Laboratory immunology, pharmacogenetics, accreditation, laboratory haematology, molecular diagnostics, extra-analytical phase of laboratory diagnostics, transplantation, laboratory coagulation, atherosclerosis, evidence based laboratory medicine, toxicology, EQA, education

Education		
<p>9th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry New trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid Diseases, Dubrovnik, October 24-25, 2009</p> <p>Continuous Postgraduate Educational and Training Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation and Management of Medical Biochemical Laboratories in Context of the Health System Reform, - Allergies – News in Diagnostics and Therapy, - Laboratory and Clinic – an Interface Too Seldom Discussed 		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
9 th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry New trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid Diseases in Dubrovnik	October 24-25, 2009	Organisation of the course; Publishing the course handbook; Lecturing at the course
Regional relations		
Cooperation with Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry in organisation of 9 th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry New trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid Diseases in Dubrovnik, on October 24-25, 2009		
International relations		
<p>1st European Symposium on Quality Management in Laboratory Medicine Accreditation of Medical Laboratories in 2009 organised by IFCC, EFCC and SFBC (Societe Francaise de Biologie Clinique) in cooperation with the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine and the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists, Paris, February 12, 2009 - Participation of CSMB via teleconference broadcast</p> <p>IFCC-EFCC EBLM Course, October 7-11, 2009 - How to Make Evidence Based Decisions about Diagnostic Tests: "Evidence in Action!" – organisation of the course in cooperation with IFCC and EFCC</p> <p>EUROMEDLAB Innsbruck "In vitro veritas", June 9-11, 2009 – invited lecture Quality indicators of continuous quality improvement in clinical laboratories</p> <p>In frame of the EuroMedLab Congress the Symposium on Biostatistics was organised by CSMB</p>		
Additional information		
<p>Work in HAA (Croatian Accreditation Agency), the Working Groups for medical biochemical laboratories related to HRN EN ISO 15189:2003: Medical laboratory - Particular requirements for quality and competence. Work on harmonisation of technical assessing procedure.</p> <p>CSMB,s scientific journal with international Editorial and Advisory Board Biochemia Medica continues to publish articles from Croatian and international authors dedicated to the members of the Society as well as to all other professionals from various fields of biomedicine that share the same interests, i.e. medicine biochemistry and laboratory medicine. The journal is bilingual with papers both in Croatian and English and indexed in following citation bases: Science Citation Index Expanded™ (SCIE, Thomson Reuters), JournalCitation Reports/Science Edition (JCR, Thomson Reuters) EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Scopus, CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), EBSCO/Academic Search Complete and DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals). 2009 CSMB has signed an Agreement for Online submission System with a Polish publisher Versita Sp.z o.o. which will enhance article submission.</p> <p>EQA of medical laboratories in Croatia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EQA Committee of CSMB continues its activities in organising EQA Schemes. In 2009 214 laboratories participated in 3 cycles of analytical phase assessment that comprised 92 tests In 9 modules (Biochemistry, Lab. haematology, Lab. coagulation, Morphology of urine sediment, Analysis of urine test strip, Acid base analyses, Hormones, Tumor markers, Haemoglobine A_{1c}) - EQA Committee organised for the first time a module "EQA of Postanalytical Phase" aiming to standardise laboratory reports on the field of general and special medical biochemistry. Standardisation of laboratory reports was assessed according to IUPAC-IFCC Recommendations: H. Olesen. Properties 		

and units in the clinical laboratory sciences I. Syntax and Semantic Rules 1995., and to the document issued by the Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists „Harmonisation of laboratory reports in the field of general, special and highly differentiated medical biochemistry”, 2007

- EQA Committee organised an independent pilot project “EQA of Preanalytical Phase”
- Active participation in scope of Croatian Accreditation Agency in a WG for interlaboratory comparisons with a view to education and preparation for accreditation according to the standard ISO 17043
- Participation in a national project in cooperation with Croatian Institute for Transfusion Medicine on introduction of fresh human blood as control sample into EQA scheme for laboratory haematology
- As full member of EQALM the EQA Committee participates in some international projects: “EQALM Working Group on Haemostasis - International INR Project” and in two projects in laboratory haematology organised by EQALM and IFCC (“EQALM’s Postanalytical External Quality Assessment Scheme for Automated Haematology” and “Effect of Storage on EDTA-Anticoagulated Blood Cell Morphology”).



DENMARK

DANISH SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 9 th Danish Congress of Clinical Biochemistry	May 27-28, 2009	Cardiovascular diseases Proteomics, Hæmostasis, Stemcells, Ageing
DSKB Meeting	October 20, 2009	Toxicological tests and drugabuse Veneous Thrombosis
Education		
Endocrinologi. Seminar for chemists and clinical biochemists November 10-12, 2009		

Cardiovaskular diseases. Seminar for chemists and clinical biochemists September 28-30, 2009		

Quality management and accreditation. Seminar for chemists May 12-14, 2009		
International relations		
Arrangement of AACC Molecular Pathology Course in Copenhagen October 1-2, 2009		
Presented by: The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) The Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB) The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) The Danish Society for Clinical Biochemistry (DSKB)		
Additional information		
Important activities in 2009		
The society has prepared and presented national recommendations regarding implementation of HbA1c in the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) units.		
A process initiated by the Danish National Board of Health was initiated in 2008 in order to centralize functions in clinical biochemistry. All societies were asked to produce a report with recommendations regarding the different functions in the specialty on three levels: high, medium and general functions. In agreement with this report all Clinical Biochemistry laboratories in Denmark have applied for keeping/obtaining specific functions. Danish National Board of Health will publish the final decisions at the end of February 2010.		
The Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry has since 2005 hosted two yearly member meetings covering relevant topics. Up to 120 members are participating, and the meetings are hosted by the society with financial support from various companies. In 2009 one meeting was replaced by the national congress. The		

2009 fall meeting, consisted of two sessions entitled Toxicological analyses and Coagulation, respectively, as well as a young investigator abstract competition. A 2,000 Euro award was given to the winner, who was appointed by the audience, based on scientific content, and quality of the oral presentation. Additionally, a prize committee awarded a young promising scientist with the “upcoming scientist” award of 700 Euros. These half-yearly meetings are of great success, which the Society will continue to prioritize.

During 2009 we have had two very fruitful collaborations with national clinical societies. A very productive working-group with members from the Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and the Danish Society of Nephrology, made a consensus report on the use of eGFR in Denmark. As a result of this working group the Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry recommended the implementation of the estimated Glomerular filtration rate in 2009.

Various other new kidney-parameters were also evaluated. The second collaborative initiative in 2009 was together with the Danish Society of Cardiology, and resulted in a consensus document regarding cardiac markers in acute coronary syndromes. The committee on cardiac markers will continuously renew the consensus document. The Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry will select topics in the future where collaborative initiatives are needed, and invite the relevant clinical societies.



ECUADOR

ECUADORIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (SEBIOCLI)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
National Assembly - Manta	January 31, 2009	Preliminary notes of National Congress
National Directive Council - Riobamba	May 30, 2009	Election of National Technical Director-PEEC
National Directive Council - Ambato	October 24, 2009	Instrumental Quality Control Workshop
National Directive Assembly - Riobamba	December 5, 2009	Organization of External Evaluation Quality Program (PEEC)
Several assemblies with Organizer Committee of the National Congress	March until present day	Organizing of "10 th Ecuadorian Congress 6 th International Congress, and 1 st Alimentary Inocuidat Congress Quito - March 25-27, 2010

Education

- Attendance to “The Best Practice of Laboratory and Quality Gestion Diplomedated”, (25) members of the society (Colabiocli – from October 2009 to October 2010)
- Organization of “X National Congress, VI International Congress and, I of Alimentary Inocuidat Congress” – Quito, 25th-27th March 2010
- Workshop Pre Congress: “Internal Quality Control on Laboratory” - (AACC) 20th-21st March 2010
- Workshop Pre Congress: “Hematology” – “Microbiology”, 22th-24th March 2010
- Masterly Conference on: Helicobacter Pilory – Quito, 24th March 2010
- Workshop Theoretical and Practical: ”Cultivation and Interpretation of H.P. antibiogram – Quito, 20th-24th March 2010
- Workshop “Instrumental Control of Laboratory” – Quito, 24th July, Guayaquil – Cuenca – Ambato Riobamba 2009
- Workshop: “Sterility – Health and Liderly” – Cuenca
- “Cuntinue Capacitation Course on norm ISO 15189” – Quito September – 2009, Ambato - 2009
- Importance of Rheumatic Tests and it’s Interpretation – Cuenca 2009
- “Quality Gestion on Laboratory” Cuenca - 2009
- “Hormonal Control” course – Cuenca - 2009
- “Diabetes Control” Guayaquil - 2009
- Parasitology Investigation – Guayaquil - 2009

- Information about to make Quality Manual on clinical laboratories. Quito - Guayaquil from September until this date.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Meeting with AACC representative about Internal Quality Control Workshop (Pre Congress)	November 17-24, 2009 - Quito	

Regional relations

- MSP: Healthy Public Minister
- OPS: Pan-American Healthy Organization
- OAE: Ecuadorian Certify Organization
- IFCC: International Federation Clinical Chemistry
- COLABIOCLI: Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry
- FEQUIFE: Ecuadorian Chemistry Pharmaceutical Federation
- UDLA: America's University
- PUCE: Catholic University
- Central University from Ecuador

International relations

- IFCC: International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
- COLABIOCLI: Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry
- Mexican Association of Clinical Biochemistry
- Latin American Clinical Biochemistry Congress (Chile)
- Paraguayan Society of Clinical Biochemistry
- Brazilian Society of Clinical Biochemistry
- Binational Pharmaceutical Alliance Ecuador - Peru
- Argentina Society of Clinical Biochemistry
- XIX Latin America Congress of Clinical Biochemistry - Chile - April 2010
- Colombia Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Additional information

Our society is organizing the "External Evaluation of Quality Program" for all laboratories in the country, with the auspices from Public Health Minister, to obtain their licenses in agreement to the Official Regulation. Our society is processing with Work Minister the salary scale for our members that work on public and private laboratories.



ESTONIA

THE ESTONIAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
General meeting	March 13, 2009	Markers of viral hepatitis. Diagnostics of auto-immune diseases. Clinical and laboratory diagnostics of coeliac disease. Analysis of genetic risk factors; oncogenetic aspects of breast, ovarian and colon cancers.
XII Summerschool	August 20-22, 2009	Diagnostics of common genetic diseases. Quality assurance in medical laboratory; cardiac troponins in diagnosis of myocardial infarction; diagnostics of TB; serodiagnostics of infectious diseases
General meeting	December 10, 2009	Overview of the posters presented by the Estonian laboratory doctors and scientists in Congresses (2008 – 2009); Summary of the work of the ESLM working groups

Working group	Many meetings	Standardisation of laboratory terminology
Working group	Many meetings	LOINC standard, RELMA programme
Working group	December 2, 2009	Possibilities for EUCAST DT methodology implementation in Estonian microbiology labs
Local organizing committee	Regular meetings	Preparing the 10 th Baltic Congress on Laboratory Medicine, Tallinn, Estonia
Heart and Infection –	October 2, 2009	New methods in laboratory diagnostics of infectious endocarditis (together Estonian Societies of Cardiology and Infectious Diseases)
Education		
Advanced course for family doctors	November 17, 2009	Interpretation of the results of common laboratory tests.
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EUCAST General Committee, ECCMID, Helsinki	May 17, 2009	GC Estonian representative arrangement for BALM Congress
Regional relations		
ESLM is the member of Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine (BALM). Preparations of the 10 th Baltic Congress on Laboratory Medicine, Tallinn 2010.		
International relations		
ESLM is a full member of the IFCC and EFCC. ESLM is also participating in the work of EC4 Register Commission. EUCAST WG of ESLM is represented in EUCAST General Committee.		



FINLAND

FINNISH SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Spring meeting	April 21-22, 2009	Professor Ulf-Håkan Stenman honorary symposium; Hormones, Point of care analytics
Fall meeting	November 12-13, 2009	Serological analytics in clinical chemistry automation, Problems caused by intoxicants during and after pregnancy, Can diabetes be prevented?
Education		
Spring meeting was organized to honor professor Ulf-Håkan Stenmans meritorius career in clinical chemistry. The topics of the lectures were Hormones (the honorary symposium) and Point of care analytics. The total number of participants was 100 of which 14 were lecturers. Fall meeting was organized in cooperation with the Finnish association of clinical biochemists. The topics of the lectures were Serological analytics in clinical chemistry automation, Problems caused by intoxicants during and after pregnancy, Can diabetes be prevented? The total number of participants was 68 of which 8 were lecturers. During the year 2009 FSCC has continued to financially support the participation of its members in several international meetings.		
Regional relations		
FSCC is a member society of the Nordic Society for Clinical Chemistry (NFKK = Nordisk förening för Klinisk kemi). At the moment Jarkko Ihalainen is the chairman of NFKK. Finnish members in the board of NFKK during year 2009 have been Tuula Metso and national chairman Harri Laitinen. Klinisk Biokemi i Norden is a journal published by NFKK. The journal published 3 issues in 2009 and it was freely distributed to all members of the NFKK member societies.		

International relations

Päivi Laitinen from Finland continued as the Secretary of IFCC.
Kari Pulkki was the national representative of FSCC in IFCC. Kari Pulkki was also a Member of the board of EFCC, the new European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.



FRANCE

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DE BIOLOGIE CLINIQUE (SFBC)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topics
SFBC Scientific Meeting - Journées Internationales de Biologie - Paris	November 3-6, 2009	Biology of Cancers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tumor cell and its environmentResearch transfers to clinical biologyNews in Oncohaematology Laboratory accreditation

Education

- Educational Committee chaired by Prof. J.P. Bali (Montpellier)
 - ✓ Continuous medical education through SFBC scientific meeting sessions
- Committee on Evaluation of Professional Practices (C-EPP) : chaired by Dr N. Jacob,
 - ✓ Topics of EPP actions in 2009 : screening of renal failure, markers of Alzheimer's disease, markers of tobacco use
 - ✓ National Agreement given to SFBC as "EPP" validating society.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EFCC-SFBC Meeting 1 st European Symposium on Accreditation of Medical Labs	Paris (F) February 12-13, 2009	Organization
4 th International Symposium on Blood Gases and Clinical Care Testing	Belle-Ile (F) June 3-5, 2009	Co-Organization
EuroMedLab 2009	Innsbruck (AU) June 7-11, 2009	Participation in the International Advisory Board. Invited speaks Chair of two plenary scientific sessions (Post-translational modifications - Translational Research)

Education

- Participation in EFCC activities
 - ✓ Contribution to EC4 register and ISO 15189 implementation
 - ✓ Participation in Committees and Working groups
 - EFCC-EC4 Committee on Professional affairs and EC4 register : Simone ZERAH, chair
 - EFCC-Committee on Continuous training and conferences : Pierre CARAYON, member
 - EFCC-Committee on Public relations, e-newsletter and EFCC-WG on distance learning: Bernard GOUGET, chair
 - EFCC Working Group on Cardiac Markers : Guillaume LEFEVRE, member
 - EFCC / UEMS WG on Guidelines : Joseph WATINE, member
 - ✓ Participation in International Advisory Board of EuroMedLab 2009 Innsbruck Meeting
 - ✓ Participation in the Scientific Program of EuroMedLab 2009 Innsbruck meeting (Chairmanship of two plenary sessions)

Candidature for the organization of EuroMedLab 2013 in Paris (unsuccessful).

International relations

- Coordination by SFBC Committee on International Relations :
 - ✓ President : Prof. A. Legrand
 - ✓ Past-President in charge of International Relations : Prof. P. Gillery
 - ✓ Members : Dr J. Bienvenu, Dr B. Gouget, Dr N. Jacob, Dr B. Poggi, Dr S. Zérah and SFBC Executive Board Members
- SFBC representatives :
 - ✓ IFCC : Prof. P. Gillery
 - ✓ EFCC : Dr B. Gouget (EC4 register : Dr S. Zérah)
 - ✓ WASPaLM : Prof. P. Gillery, Prof. P. Gambert
- Participation in International Advisory Board of IFCC Berlin WorldLab 2011.
- SFBC: founding member of the FIFBCML : Fédération Internationale Francophone de Biologie Clinique et de Médecine de Laboratoire (FIFBCML President: Prof. Alain Legrand, SFBC President)

SFBC – Invited speakers in international meetings

- EFCC: EuroMedLab 2009, June 7-11, 2009, Innsbruck (AU)
- AFCB and FIFBCML
 - Journées Nationales de Biologie Clinique, Société Marocaine de Biologie Clinique, March 26-28, 2009, Casablanca (MA)
 - XXIIIe Journées Nationales de Biologie Clinique, Société Tunisienne de Biologie Clinique, May 14-16, 2009, Sousse (TN)
 - Premier Congrès Algérien de Biologie Clinique, Société Algérienne de Biologie Clinique, and 2nd Meeting of FIFBCML , May 2-3, 2009, Alger (DZ)
 - XII MEDLAB Meeting of AFCB, September 30 - October 3, Beyrouth (Lebanon)

Participation of SFBC members in IFCC Committees and Working Group

- **IFCC-EB**
 - B. Gouget, Member, 2009-2011
- **IFCC-SD**
 - Scientific Division Executive Committee (SD-EC) - Ph Gillery, member, 2006-2008
 - C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU) - F. Pontet, chair, 2006-2008
 - C-Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL) - J. Henny, member, 2006-2008
 - C-Reference Systems of Enzymes (C-RSE) - J.M. Lessinger, member, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (WG-STFT) - C. Ronin, member, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standard. of Carbohydrate-Deficient-Transferrin (WG-CDT) - F. Schellenberg, member, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standardization of Growth Hormone (WG-GH) - J.C. Souberbielle, N. Lahlou, members, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standardization of glomerular filtration rate (WG-GFRA) - J.P. Cristol, corresp. member, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standardization of Troponin I (WG-TnI) - G. Lefèvre, corresp. member, 2008-2010
 - WG-Standardization of HbA₂ (WG-HbA₂) - Van Dorsselaer, corresp. member, 2007-2009
- **IFCC-EMD**
 - C-Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM) - J Watine, corresp. member 2008-2010
 - C-Committee on Analytical Quality (C-AQ) - A. Vassault, member, 2007-2009
- **IFCC-CPD**
 - IFCC News and WG-IFCC News - D Gruson, member
 - IFCC news - B.Gouget, former CPD chair
- **IFCC-C-CC**
 - P. Carayon, corresp. member, 2008-2010

SFBC Board 2008-2009 (end of term: November 2009)

Executive Board:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ President | Pr Alain LEGRAND |
| ▪ Vice-President | Pr Philippe GAMBERT |
| ▪ Past-President | Pr Philippe GILLERY |
| ▪ General Secretary | Dr Nelly JACOB |
| ▪ Assistant General Secretary | Dr Isabelle AIMONE-GASTIN |
| ▪ Treasurer | Dr Hubert TRONEL |
| ▪ Associate Member | Dr M.F. GAUDEAU-TOUSSAINT |

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▪ Chairs	Pr Pierre CARAYON Dr Véronique DUCROS
Editor in Chief ABC:	
▪ Chairs	Pr Jean-Louis BEAUDEUX
Educational Committee:	
▪ Chairs	Pr Jean-Louis BEAUDEUX
▪ Associate Chair	Dr Danny de MOUY
Webmaster:	Dr Rémy COUDERC



GERMANY

DEUTSCHE VEREINTE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR KLINISCHE CHEMIE UND LABORATORIUMSMEDIZIN (GERMAN UNIFIED SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
6 Annual Meeting: "Today's Laboratory Diagnostics for an Individualized Medicine"	October 7-9, 2009	Genome Analysis, Metabolomics and Proteomics, New Biomarkers, Biobanking, etc.
Minisymposium "Update Clinical Toxicology"	October 15-16, 2009	LC-MS in Clinical Toxicology
Symposium "Walking together – Laboratory Medicine and Transfusion Medicine"	November 27-28, 2009	Blood product safety; Pharmacogenetics in coagulation; Immunosuppression in organ transplantation; etc.
Education		
Repetitorium "Klinische Chemie" (Course "Clinical Chemistry"), November 23-28, 2009 Course "Microscopic Differential Blood Count", November 28-29, 2009 Working Group "Multimedia Education" LabTests online DE		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EuroMedLab 2009, Innsbruck	June 7-11, 2009	Symposia Chairs and Speakers
Regional relations		
Active participation in EFCC (including Board Membership) Active participation in the EC4 Register Commission (including Board Membership) "LaboratoriumsMedizin" (J. Lab. Med.), official journal of the German and the Austrian Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine		
International relations		
Active Participation in IFCC (including Working Groups, Task Forces, etc.)		



GREECE

GREEK SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY- CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
8 th National Congress of Clinical Chemistry, Patras	October 2-4, 2009	
Education		
10 th Seminar of Continuous Education: May 16, 2009 – “Clinical Laboratory Management”. 11 th Seminar of Continuous Education: December 5, 2009 – “Thyroid”.		
International relations		
CCLM Scientific magazine subscription. Participation on EFCC and IFCC. The 2010 General Conference of IFCC will be held on April in Greece (Corfu).		
Additional information		
Greek Lab Tests Online successfully uploaded 65 tests on its platform.		



GUATEMALA

GUATEMALAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMIST

Education		
1.Continuous Educational Program for clinical Chemist: monthly meeting 2. External Quality Program for 180 Guatemalan laboratories for Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, hematology, Immunology, Micology, Mycobacterias, Uroanalysis, parasitology and Instrumental.		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society’s contribution for the meeting
Course of Audits for Quality Management Systems	August 1, 2009	Organization
Internal Quality Control Programs in Latin America	April 5, 2009	Proposals of cooperation to the Latin American countries
National Meeting of the Mexican Society of clinical Chemistry	March 1, 2009	Lecture of a Guatemalan Professor
XIX Latin American Meeting of Clinical Pathology, organized by Cuban Society of Clinical Pathology	Cuba, April 2009	Lecture of a Guatemalan Professor
EuroMedLab Innsbruck 2009, 18 IFCC EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Congress of the Austrian Society of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry	Austria, June 7-11, 2009	Participant in the Meeting
National Meeting of Nicaragua Society of Clinical Microbiologist in memory TM Mario Nelson Picado	Nicaragua, July 4, 2009	Strengthening the regulations for accreditation of clinical laboratories Lecture of a Guatemalan Professor

Second Course for audits In Quality Management system in Panamá with ISO 19011	Panamá, August 2009	Contribution for planning of the course
National Meeting of Bolivian Society	Bolivia September 2009	Contribution for the improve the external quality program
Peruvian Society of Clinical Laboratory Professionals Meeting	Perú Lima October 13-16, 2009	Contribution for the improve the external quality program
XIX Dominican Republic National Meeting of Clinical Laboratory Professionals	November 26-28, 2009	Contribution for the improve the external quality program
Regional relations		
Member of the Executive Board of COLABIOCLI Collaboration with American Academy of Clinical Chemistry AACC activities in workshops of internal control.		
International relations		
Member of IFCC Executive board of COLABIOCLI Collaboration with American Academy of Clinical Chemistry AACC activities. Pan-American Health Organization PAHO with de Strategic plan PAHO-COLABIOCLI to improve the Quality.		
Additional information		
Actually the Guatemalan Society of Clinical Chemists is the location of Executive board of COLABIOCLI.		
Additional information		
Awards: Presidency of COLABIOCLI		



HONDURAS

COLEGIO DE MICROBIÓLOGOS Y QUÍMICOS CLÍNICOS DE HONDURAS (CMQCH)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Scientific committee National congress of microbiology	January 9, 2009	Pursuit to planing of the congress
Secretariat of Health with assintant Minister	January 20, 2009	Request of vacant piece of news for Microbiologist of Health at National level.
Preparation of strategic plan	March 3, 2009	Elaboration of plan
Embassy of Mexico	March 26, 2009	Coordination of scholars grants with National Polytech school of Mexico
Weekly meetings with directorate of the CMQCH	Every Thursday	Pursuit to all the processes and activities of the CMQCH
Meetings with Legal Adviser of the CMQCH	Monthly	Interpretation and fulfillment of laws of the organization
Sanitary Regulation of the Secretariat of Health	April 8, 2009 July 24, 2009	Tecnical honduran Regulation of Functioning an opening of Clinical laboratories and Captured of samples.
Chiefs of Human Resources of Private Hospital	August 8, 2009	Fulfillment of law that protects the Microbiologist who are employed of Hospital private
Advisers of the plan of cellular telephony	Weekly	Incorporation of other microbiologist in the plan
Advisers of the Plan of the insurance medicated an life group	September 2009	Incorporation of other microbiologist in the plan end benefits

Alliance Against Tobacco	Monthly	Activities against the consumption of tobacco in public places and prevention in young people
National ordinary Assembly of CMQCH	September 2009	Annual report Budget New election Directorate
Social Fund of the Microbiologist	October 2009	Coordination with new administrative advice
Honduran Federation of university professionals	Every Wednesday	National coordination of activities
Celebration day of the Microbiologist	November 2009	Celebration
Manager human Resources of the Sure Social Hospital	October 2009	Wage progress of Microbiologist used by contract in Social Insurance Hospital
Directorate of the Syndicate of the Sure Social Hospital	October 26, 2009	Wage progress of Microbiologist
Coordinator of contest of vacancies apped in Secretiat of Health	December 21, 2009	Data and requisites of contest
School Microbiology National University of Honduras		Congress of Microbiology Other activities Coordinate different activities

Education

- Study on biosafety for Private laboratories
- Study Influenza A H1N1
- Education in Regulations of the CMQCH to Microbiologist in Social Service
- Induction to new unionized
- Presentation of results of investigation of VIH in Adolescent.
- the Congress was not realized by the political problems in the country

Regional relations

Coordination with CIES-UNAN (National University of Nicaragua), student of Master in Epidemiology

International relations

Coordination with International exhibitors who were taking part in the National congress of microbiology proceeding of Costa Rica, Panamá, Ecuador, Argentina y EE.UU

Additional information

As result of our management the Secretariat of Health, approved 49 vacant squares for Microbiologist in National Hospital and other Units of Public Health.



HONG KONG

HONG KONG SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Scientific Meeting	January 17, 2009	Recent Advances in Local Chemical Pathology Services
Dinner Lecture	March 30, 2009	New applications of LCMS in clinical laboratories
APFCB/Beckman Coulter Education Symposium	June 24, 2009	Diagnostic challenges on chronic anaemia
Abbott Education Seminar	August 27, 2009	Topics on new clinical chemistry products, reference intervals and quality control practice

Education		
The four national meetings were well attended with attendance of 113 to 193 members and guests.		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
APFCB-BC Education Symposium	June 24, 2009	Organization and coordination.
Regional relations		
APFCB member		
International relations		
Professor Christopher WK Lam:		
1. IFCC Representative		
2. IFCC-Ortho Diagnostics Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care 2008		
3. IFCC Visiting Lecturer to European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFCC) (23/10/2008 – 05/11/2008)		
4. Visiting Lecturer in the 8 th EFCC Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry (24 – 25/10/2008)		
Elected as IFCC Vice President (2009 – 2011)		
Additional information		
In collaboration with AACB to organize the Asian Pacific Conference on Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry to be held in Hong Kong (January 14-16, 2010).		



HUNGARY

HUNGARIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE		
National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
MOLSZE meeting	August 27-29, 2009. Pécs	National Meeting of Medical Technologists
Education		
We had several 5 day long, postgraduate training courses. The one with probably the most participants was organized by Professor László Muszbek in Budapest October 12-16, 2009, entitled: Molecular biological diagnostics.		
There were several courses mostly organized by in vitro diagnostic companies in different areas of laboratory medicine.		
For the first time in 2009 our society provided a possibility for some of our society members (based on previous successful applications) to receive the journal Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine for 2010.		
Regional relations		
We regularly invite outstanding clinical chemists from neighbouring countries one such person for 2010 will be Dr. Elisabetha Topic from Croatia.		
At our biannual national meetings we always have participants from several countries and promote the participation of numerous Hungarian colleagues Transylvania and Slovakia.		
International relations		
Hungary has received an enormous recognition when last year at the Innsbruck EFCC meeting dr. Andrea Rita Horváth became chairman of the EFCC.		
Dr István Balogh (University of Debrecen) was elected a corresponding member of the Committee on Molecular Diagnostics.		
Additional information		
Our society is preparing "assay-finder" that will cover all aspects of laboratory medicine, consisting of special tests that are difficult to attain for clinicians. This assay-finder will cover all special tests attainable in Hungary with a maximum turnaround time of 4 weeks, in all areas of laboratory medicine. We will prepare an English version of this assay-finder to make it available for clinical chemists from other countries.		



ICELAND

THE ICELANDIC SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
General meeting	September 25, 2009	Preparations for LabMed 2012 Conference
Board meetings	February 6, May 29, September 25, December 11, 2009	Various relevant topics for the Society
Nordic Federation of Clinical Biochemistry Societies (NFKK) Board Meeting held in Iceland	May 7-8, 2009	A broad Nordic Agenda
Education		
No educational activities in 2009 other than attending conferences and national meetings.		
Regional relations		
The Icelandic Society covers the whole country, so there is only one region. Only two members of the Icelandic Society for Clinical Chemistry reside outside Reykjavik. In the year 2009 all activity of the society was within the city of Reykjavik, except the Nordic Board Meeting in May 2009.		
International relations		
Participation in the board of the NFKK (Nordic Federation of Clinical Biochemistry Societies). Participation in IFCC.		
Additional information		
Collaboration in editing of the journal "Klinisk Biokemi i Norden".		



INDIA

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS INDIA

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
ACBICON	November 3-7, 2009	Details are in attached files
Education		
Pre conference Professional course, CME and workshops were organized.		
Additional information		
<p>ACBICON – 2009, the 36th Annual National Conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists, India was organized by Dr. D.M. Vasudevan at Department of Biochemistry, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, Kerala from 4th to 7th November 2009. The conference was a grand success in all aspects. There was very good participation by Indian as well as foreign delegates. Many corporate companies also participated. The meeting was co-sponsored by Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Indian Council for Medical Research, Medical Council of India, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment and Indian National Science Academy. Medical Council of India allotted credit hours for pre-conference professional course, workshop/CME and for the main conference. Various topics covering the latest advances in clinical chemistry and allied laboratory fields were discussed. A total of 1350 delegates registered for the conference. The speakers for professional course were Prof. DM Vasudevan, Prof. T Malati, Prof. S Sreekumari, Dr. V. Parameswaran, Prof Jayashree Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nibhriti Das, Dr. Udayan Ray, Dr. Rajiv Sinha, Dr. Shyamali Pal, Prof. MVR Reddy, Dr. BK Gupta and Dr. CV Anand. Totally 6 parallel pre conference workshops on Inborn errors of metabolism, Clinical Proteomics, Clinical Genomics, Total Quality Management of clinical biochemistry and accreditation, Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory automation and Medical research were conducted. The pre conference CME was conducted on Advances in clinical biochemistry.</p> <p>Prof. B C Harinath received the AJ Thakur award for Distinguished Clinical Biochemist of the year. The</p>		

Oration award lectures, the Awadhesh Saran Memorial Oration by Prof. T. Venkatesh on Lead Poisoning: Current status in developing countries and the global perspective, the K L Gupta Oration on Tyrosine kinases from basic to therapy by Prof. T.S. Ganesan, T. N. Pattabhiraman oration on Laboratory overload: How to Optimize? by Prof. Brig. M.M. Arora, KEM Hospital and Seth G S Medical collage oration by Shanti Kumar Nair on Regenerative Nanomedicine – prospects for diagnosis and therapy using Nanomaterials, Mrs and Dr G P Talwar oration Endothelial dysfunction with special reference to eNOS gene polymorphism: Another plausible mechanism forced risk in Postmenopausal woman by Jayashree Bhattacharjee were very well appreciated. Keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Michael Oellerich from Germany, President World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine on Impact of Pharmacogenetics on Theapeutic drug monitoring and by Angelo Azzi on Vitamin E is activated by phosphorylation to alphotocopheryl phosphate. The Taranath memorial lecture on Metabolic Disorders was given by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar. Dr Päivi Laitinen the IFCC Secretary from Finland gave plenary lecture on prenatal screening for chromosomal abnormalities. Dr Ghassaen Shannen, the IFCC Tresurer from Syria and IFCC-Abott visiting lecturer delivered talk on Quality Management and Six Sigma. AFMC-NIMS quiz conducted by Prof. T. Malati, Past president of ACBI and her team from Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences was a huge success.

Varieties of 18 symposia and 5 scientific sessions were conducted on Cutting edge technologies in Clinical Biochemistry, High altitude disorders, Anti Oxidants and Free Radicals, Clinical Laboratory Practice, Hepatic and Renal disorders. Clinical perspectives in biochemistry and laboratory practice, Cardiovascular diseases, Laboratory practice and free radicals, BRNS symposium, Endocrine disorders and Diabetes, Quality management, Immunology and Infectious diseases, Role of natural products, Nutritional status, Cardiovascular risk markers, Clinical laboratory diagnosis, Molecular biology, Clinical biochemistry. The breakfast interactive sessions, "Meet the giants of the field" was organized with Drs. Ishwarlal Jialal and Udayan Ray on Trends in cardiovascular diseases, with Hari Sharma on Targeting angiogenesis in diagnosis and inhibitors treatment, with Deshratn Asthana and Ross Barnard on Molecular Diagnosis, with Lindsay Brown and Parameshwaran on Endocrine disorders. Sixty four invited lectures were delivered by foreign and Indian speakers.

It was truly an international meet as more than 30 eminent Foreign speakers 7 from USA, 11 from Australia, 2 from Germany, one from Malaysia, one from Taiwan, one from Japan, 2 from Spain, one from Finland, 2 from Bolivia, one from The Netherlands and one from Indonesia and more than 60 speakers from different parts of India have participated actively in ACBICON 2009.

There were about 180 poster presentations covering eight major areas of clinical biochemistry by delegates from all parts of India, and from abroad as well. Various other academic activities were carried out by more than 20 *ACBI state chapters of India*.

ACBICON 2010 will be held in Mumbai from December 13 to 15 2010 at the World Trade Centre, Cuff Parade, Mumbai. The professional Course will be conducted on the 11 December and the workshops on 12 December 2010.

The extremely useful and popular external quality EQAS program has been running regularly for the past 30 years by Christian Medical College, Vellore. At present there are more than 2500 participants. The lyophilized samples are sent to all the Indian laboratories under the leadership of Prof R.Selva Kumar and the assessment reports are hosted on the web site (<http://home.cmcvellore.ac.in/clinqc/>).

Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry (IJC), the official publication of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India. Journal has been published regularly for the past 24 years. The journal includes editorial, invited review, original articles, brief communications, case reports and letter to editor. IJC is indexed and abstracted by SCOPUS, Chemical Abstract Service (CAS), EMBASE, Expanded Academic, Google, INIS Atom Index, Index Copernicus, Indian Science Abstracts, MedInd, Chem Refer, OCLC, Summon by Serial Solutions, Thomson Zoological Record, DOAJ, Google Scholar, WorldCat, Google Scholar, Directory of Open Access Journals, Open J-Gate, NLM. IJC has online facility for submission of manuscripts, tracking and submission of revisions and for review through Editorial manager. IJC has print (0970-1915) and electronic (0974-0422) versions and ISSN number. Its distribution is through Springer India Pvt. Ltd. All electronic issues are available on <http://www.springerlink.com/content/120961/> and recent issues are also available on <http://medind.nic.in/iaf/iafm.shtml> and www.indexcopernicus.com. Dr. Praveen Sharma, Past President of ACBI is Editor-in-Chief of Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry.



INDONESIA

INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
IACC General Conference XII	November 12-14, 2009	The Role of laboratory in Diagnosis & Management of Metabolic Syndrome; The Role of Laboratory Medicine on Lipid testing, CKD and Intensive Care Unit; Prenatal, Paediatric & Reproductive Laboratory Medicine; Laboratory Management; Innovative Technologies in Laboratory Medicine; Women and Men Health Laboratory Medicine;

Education

- In IACC General Conference XII, a guideline regarding to Good Medical Laboratory Practices has been released. The guideline was written by Indonesia Medical Laboratory Forum.
- One of our IACC member (Johnson Wijaya) got IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship to attend 18th IFCC – EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, National Congress of the Austrian Society of Laboratory medicine and Clinical Chemistry in Innsbruck. This congress had the theme “In Vitro Veritas?”. Experts came from all countries in Europe and beyond to share and learn the new trend and updated information about laboratory medicine. The events began on Sunday June 7-11, 2009. The Scientific program discussed about the ‘cardiovascular diseases’. Important issues were centered on the using of high sensitive Troponin T for the early detection of Myocardial Infarction and independent predictor for RV dysfunction. The ‘stem cell’ session, in which Dr. R.K Li from Canada explored all about the cell therapy for restoration of cardiac function. Very interesting topics were the ‘pharmacogenetic in laboratory medicine: from bench to bedside’ session, in which inter-individual variability would affect the efficacy of therapy for each person.

Additional information

IACC General Conference is a routine activity every 3 years to share many information or knowledge about medical laboratory update. Other activity in our general conference is vote new president of our society. The theme of IACC General Conference XII was The role of laboratory medicine From birth to aging : New markers and Emerging Technology. The number of participant was 300 persons, they are GP, scientist, clinical laboratory head and clinical pathologist. Beside the plenary lecture and symposium, there was the poster session also.



IRAN

IRANIAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
10 th Iranian congress of biochemistry and 3 rd international congress of biochemistry and molecular biology	November 16-19, 2009	Enzymology, nanotechnology, hormones, trace elements, molecular biology

Education		
Work shops and one day seminars on different topics such as laboratory quality control, lab safety, biochemical education, ethics in research, ethics in clinical laboratory activity.		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Third national meeting of heads department of Biochemistry	July 2009	Convener
Fourth national meeting of heads departments of Biochemistry	December 2009	Convener
Regional relations		
Formation of regional councils of biochemical society (five regions in the country). Selecting the society representative in each 20 provinces. Corporation with the ministry of health in revision of study curriculum of M.Sc and PH.D. courses.		
International relations		
Continuing with IFCC, continuing with FAOBMB as full member .Inviting internationally known scientist for the congress key note speeches.		
Additional information		
The biochemical society of Iran is planning to publish a series of hand book regarding different aspects of quality life concerning the biochemical balance and disturbances which may help in health improvement and cause disease .These hand books will be prepared in easy going language so that general people may read and get familiar with the health promotions skills in special cases like biochemical changes in pregnancy, diabetes, age related disease, etc...		



ISRAEL

ISRAEL SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Israel Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences , 43 rd annual conference	March 24-25, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Proteosomes, plenary- Prof Ada Yonath (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2009) • Clinical chemistry – Metabolism and The aging mind • Lipids, atherosclerosis, health and nutrition • Drugs and alcohol • Hematology – CLL • Microbiology – new laboratory methods
Molecular diagnosis of Hematological Malignancies	February 23, 2009	CML, FISH, Bioview microscopic analysis of Fish, Prognostic molecular markers in leukemia
Blood donations in Israel	June 21, 2009	Activities of Magen David Adom (Red Star of David), characterization of rare blood group antigens and antibodies, blood unit screening for infectious diseases
Quality assurance in the microbiology laboratory	October 27, 2009	Implementing ISO15189 in the microbiology laboratory 'External QA and internal QC Serology Evaluations, science or art?'
Education		
Science and Coffee educational sessions		
No sessions this year, activity will resume in 2010		

International relations

18th IFCC meeting June 7-11, 2009 - **Innsbruck** Congress Centre - **Innsbruck** – Austria was as attended by: Dr Adina Bar Haim, Dr. George Prajrod, and Nurit Algur

Additional information

Our society in collaboration with the Israel Ministry of Health is implementing new professional and regulatory requirements from laboratory personnel in clinical laboratories. Our Society is assisting laboratory professionals in obtaining the required regulatory measures

See our web site <http://ilmar.org.il/>

Prepared by National Representative Varda Deutsch.



ITALY

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI BIOCHIMICA CLINICA E BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE CLINICA (SIBioC)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
41 st National Meeting	Naples, October 27-30, 2009	See the following report

Education

Also in 2009 the National meeting was held in conjunction with SIMeL (Italian Society of Laboratory Medicine). The Congress was organized in three Plenary sessions (Screening and diagnosis of Kidney diseases, Biomarkers, Farmacogenetics) and 8 parallel sessions (Two on the diagnostic pathway for diabetes, breast cancer, Farmacotoxicology, Risk management, The screenings, Flow cytometry and lymphoproliferative diseases, Scientific communication).

Moreover, 17 industry sponsored workshops were organized and we accepted 312 abstracts, 300 presented as posters, 12 as oral communications.

SIBioC organized 8 Educational Courses in the framework of a Permanent School of Laboratory medicine and 13 local meetings.

Additional information

SIBioC publishes its own Scientific Journal "Biochimica Clinica" (33rd volume in 2009).

In 2009 were published 6 issues containing: 5 reviews, 3 editorials, 19 scientific contributions, 1 opinion article, 3 letters to the editor, 2 SIBioC Official Documents. In 2009 Biochimica Clinica initiated a collaboration with Clinical Chemistry and in each number it publishes an Italian translation of a review published on Clin Chem.



JAPAN

JAPAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 49 th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)	September 18-20, 2009	President lecture: "Chemiluminescence and analytical biochemistry"; Kenichiro Nakashima, Graduate School of Nagasaki University; Special lecture: "Clinical Biochemistry Learned by Natural experimental model, ATL"; Shimeru Kamihira, Graduate School of Nagasaki University

Education
Educational lecture in 49 th JSCC Useful and simple data analyses for clinical chemistry- basic statistical analyses
Regional relations
To plan and promote the reference interval project (the third Asian Study) backed by APFCB and IFCC-SD(C-PP, C-RIDL), Kiyoshi Ichihara made close communications with the East and South-East Asian colleagues. More than 20 laboratories in the region as well as 32 laboratories in Japan agreed to collaborate. The study starts from January, 2009.
International relations
<p>Representative to APFCB Council: Tsutomu Nobori Education Committee: Katsuhiko Kuwa Scientific Committee: Minoru Tozuka Laboratory Management Committee: Kiyoshi Ichihara Association Secretary or equivalent: Masato Maekawa</p> <p>IFCC Activity IFCC-SD: Naotaka Hamasaki C-RIDL Chair: Kiyoshi Ichihara C-PP Member: Yukio Ando , Corresponding Member: Kiyoshi Ichihara ,Yoshi Itoh C-RSE Member: Kang Dongchon WG on SCC Member: Yoshihisa Itoh WG on SMA Member: Yoshihisa Itoh WG on SEB Member: Katsuhiko Kuwa WG on HbA1c Member: Tadao Hoshino</p> <p>International Journal Editor Editorial Board for Annals of Clinical Biochemistry: Kiyoshi Ichihara Editorial Board of CCLM: Kiyoshi Ichihara Editorial Board of Clini Chimi Acta: Nobumasa Okumura</p> <p>Publication of original papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • papers on CCLM 9 papers were published during 2009. • papers on ACB 6 papers were published during 2009.
Additional information
About 1,500 members including MD and PHD belong to JCSS and 9 blocks were divided as the each centre of JSCC. The annual meeting is held once a year and more than 400 papers are discussed in the meeting and the regional meetings were held once a year in each region and interesting symposiums and special lectures are planned by an annual president of the meeting.



KENYA

CLINICAL CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA		
National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Meeting	September 2, 2009	
Education		
TQM in Clinical Chemistry on September 2, 2009 HUQAS Annual Conference on November 2009 Members participate in Asian Pacific Federation of Clinical Chemistry Interpretative Comments Educational Program.		

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
African Federation of Clinical Chemistry Inaugural meeting	November 2009	CCAK Secretary was selected Treasurer of new Association
Regional relations		
Affiliated to: - African Federation of Clinical Chemistry - Association of Pathologists in East Central and Southern Africa (APECSA)		
International relations		
Affiliated to IFCC		



KOREA

KOREAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Meeting of KSCC	June 4, 2009	Plenary Lecture Symposium 1: Renal Function Test Symposium 2: Statistics using in Laboratory Medicine Industry Workshop Oral and Poster Presentation



LATHVIA

LATVIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY SPECIALISTS (LSB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
LSB General meeting	March 12, 2009.	The future of education projects (Latvian Laboratory Congress, education programme online, invited speakers through IFCC)
LSB General meeting	May 28, 2009.	Changes in the Latvian legislation relating to medical laboratories
LSB General meeting	September 24, 2009.	Recommendations concerning to co-operation with industry. New automated EIA/ELISA systems. Biochemical pre-natal screening.
Baltic Association for Laboratory medicine Board meeting	October 16, 2009.	Organizing of the 10th BALM Congress in 2010
LSB General meeting	December 3, 2009.	Inflammation biomarkers for early diagnosis of child's sepsis

Education
*Education courses in the biggest medical laboratories in Latvia. *Contribution to prepare the 10th BALM Congress in 2010. *Latvian translation of IFCC Distance Learning Program on Natriuretic Peptides



LITHUANIA

LITHUANIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Laboratory medicine days	May (preliminary)	Reproductive tract infections: diagnostics, therapy, antimicrobial resistance.

Education

- 1) A course of laboratory medicine for the 5th year students of all study programs (medicine, odontology, public health, nursing) at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University.
- 2) Residency in laboratory medicine organized by the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University (4 years) – every year 2-3 new residents.
- 3) Master degree program in Medical biology at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University (2 years) – every year 5-8 students.
- 4) Advanced training courses at Vilnius University in different fields of Laboratory medicine – in total 7 different courses in 2010.
- 5) Society regional meetings – there are 5 regional bureaus of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine and 3-5 times per year they do organize meetings: conferences, seminars on different topics of laboratory medicine.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Regional meetings of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine (there are 5 regional bureaus of the Society)	3-5 times per year	One of the organizers

International relations

Close relations with the Latvian and Estonian Societies of Laboratory Medicine – Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine was founded and this association is the main organizer of the Baltic Congresses of Laboratory Medicine, which are being held every second year in one of the Baltic countries. The coming – 10th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine is going to be held in Tallinn, Estonia in September 16-18, 2010.

Good relations with the Nordic Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine –our specialists participate in the Congresses organized by the Nordic Societies.

Relations are being kept with the European and international organizations via participation in various working groups of these organizations.



MEXICO

MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, AMBC

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
XXXII National Congress in Clinical Biochemistry	March 6-8, 2009	Clinical Biochemistry selected topics www.ambcmexicana.org.mx
4 th International Conference on Quality	July 15, 2009	Internet based Conference in quality for the clinical Laboratory
XXII Quality assurance scheme program annual meeting	October 18, 2009	Quality assurance scheme program and continuing education on proficiency testing programs

Education		
<p><u>Precongress Courses</u> on: Cytomorphology of major haematological diseases; Bioesefaty; Basic techniques of molecular biology and clinical application; Identification and ant microbial susceptibility testing of gram-positive and gram-negative bacterial; Validation of culture medium; Food microbiology; Human cytogenesis and clinical rationale; Potential diagnosis of body fluids; Immunology; Chemical methodology applied to criminality; Physiology and biochemistry of the blood chemistry; Coagulation; Immunohematology; Diagnosis of genital infections and sexually transmitted diseases; Forensic Genetics; Blood gases and Management and interpretation of the AMBC proficiency-testing program.</p> <p><u>Diplomados</u> with University recognition on: Transfusional Medicine, Clinical Microbiology.</p> <p><u>Monthly Conferences</u> on Selected topics in Clinical Biochemistry.</p> <p><u>Monthly review sessions on EQAS</u> provided by experts in clinical biochemistry topics related to Hematology, Clinical Chemistry, Coagulation, Uroanalysis, Bacteriology, Parasitology and Hormones.</p>		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
COLABIOCLI Quality Management Course	June 2009	Full Attendance
Regional relations		
COLABIOCLI Full Member society www.colabiocli.org		
International relations		
<p>Full member, IFCC Member ISO TC212 / WG1 Member Awards Committee IFCC Member International Scientific and Advisory Scientific Board, IFCC Berlin WorldLab Congress Member Editorial Board, Biochemia Medica of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists Member Editorial Board, Point of Care Testing Journal, USA Member Editorial Board IDV/RIA/IFCC www.ifcc.org Member Editorial Board Acta Bioquimica Latinoamericana, www.colabiocli.org Associated Member, WG HbA1c SD IFCC</p>		
Additional information		
<p>Board Member, Mexican Accreditation Entity</p> <p>Member, Subcommittee on Laboratory Accreditation, Mexican Accreditation Entity</p> <p>Member, Working Groups in Laboratory Medicine, Mexican Accreditation Entity</p> <p>Delegate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee on ISO Standards, Minister of Economy. Member of the Jury, Ceneval, Thesis Disertation and Diploma in Clinical Chemistry Member, Review of the Syllabus in Pharmacy and Clinical Biochemistry (Conefris) Member, Committee in Healthcare Policy Initiative (Minister of Health) Conferences and Courses given at Faculties of Chemistry, other Associations and Industry at National level. <p>AACC JCC– AMBC Bioquimia agreement on translations of published reviews in laboratory medicine</p>		



NETHERLANDS

NETHERLANDS SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Conference	April 16-17, 2009	Neurobiochemics and behaviour
Spring conference laboratory senior laboratory technicians	April 15, 2009	Leadership and change
General assembly	November 18 and December 9, 2009	Various, domestic: changes in charter and regulations
Teachers meetings	February 11 and November 12, 2009	Assessment of competences
Benchmark presentation	March 25, 2009	Benchmarking

Education

CME Transfusion March 3, 2009
 CME Heart Disease May 28, 2009
 CME Monoclonal Gammopathy October 13, 2009
 CME Point of Care Testing December 1, 2009

Meetings on Molecular Diagnostics June 26 and November 27, 2009

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
See below		

Regional relations

9 regions with their own meetings and activities

International relations

IFCC, EFCC



NIGERIA

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS OF NIGERIA (ACCN)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
ACCN Zonal Seminar hosted by the South West Zone	April 27, 2009	Immunological basis of diseases
5th Biennial Scientific Conference of the ACCN	October 25-28, 2009	Non-Communicable Diseases

Education

Subthemes of National Conference:

Lifestyle and Diseases
 Diseases associated with Ageing
 Environment and Diseases

Both Zonal Seminar and National/Regional Conference were well attended and education was of international standard.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Inauguration of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry	October 25-28, 2009	Hosting of the meeting in Ibadan, Nigeria

Regional relations
ACCN has an admirable relationship with sister African societies in Kenya, and South Africa. Invited Speakers at the last ACCN Conference/ AFCC Inauguration were Dr Angela Amayo (Kenya), Profs. Vanessa Steenkamp, Rajiv Erasmus, Tahir Pillay and Tandi Matsha.
International relations
Internationally, ACCN had two speakers on the Visiting Lectureship Program (VLP) for her national conference in the persons of Past Presidents, Profs. Jocelyn Hicks and Donald S. Young. Dr Anthony Okorodudu from USA has always been available and helpful. He was also an invited Speaker at the last national/Regional conference. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics was one of the major supporters of the last national/regional conference.
Additional information
Two national executive meetings held on April 26, 2009 and October 26, 2009 during which local activities were monitored. Several Joint Executive and Local Organising Committee Meetings for (ACCN Conference/AFCC Inauguration) were held. At the Biennial General Meeting which took place after the ACCN Conference, on the October 28, 2009, members of the last executive were returned. Details are: Prof. A B. Okesina-President, Dr J.E. Ahaneku-Vice President, Dr Mabel A. Charles-Davies-I Secretary, Prof. E.O. Agbedana-Treasurer, Dr Paul Amodu, Past President. Zonal Representatives are : Dr Josephine A.A. Onokoya- Lagos, Dr O.M. Akinosun-South-West, Prof. G. Oyeyinka- North Central Zone, Dr O.P. Anaja- North, Prof. S. Meludu-South East, Dr Maisie Etukudo-South South. Members of Board of Trustees are: Profs. B. O. Osotimehin, Henry Adewoye, O.A. Dada, Hassan Isah and Mrs S. Akinyanju IFCC/Roche Award for one of our members and registration fees for another to attend the last EFCC were not utilised and forfeited because of the refusal of foreign embassy to grant to them visa. Regulations in this respect particularly if it is not the fault of the individual or association should be reviewed. Registration fees for international conferences are already exorbitant for our members. Forfeiting such can be discouraging to our members and can affect attendance of International Conferences. The ACCN thanks the IFCC for her continued support and encouragement.



PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL PATHOLOGISTS (PSCP)		
National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Executive Council Meeting	February 1, 2009	National Conference
Executive Council Meeting	October 1, 2009	3 rd Biennial Course
Executive Council Meeting	December 15, 2009	Pathology week, Symposium
Education		
3 rd Biennial National Conference of PSCP was held on 5-6 March 2009. Workshop on Diabetes Mellitus was held on August 2009 3 rd Biennial Course in Chemical Pathology will be held on 2-3 rd April 2010 at AFIP Rawalpindi.		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Regular meetings of local chapters of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Quetta, Bahawalpur and Peshawar are held.		PSCP encourages the holding of these meetings and decisions made by local chapters are discussed in executive council meetings.

International relations

We hope to hold visiting lectures by distinguished speakers in collaboration with IFCC.

Additional information

PSCP members wish to participate in research projects launched by IFCC or APFCB. Full cooperation and support will be available from PSCP.



PARAGUAY

PARAGUAYAN BIOCHEMISTRY ASSOCIATION

Education

ACTIVITIES CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- 1.- Update Conferences on Human Papilloma Virus. Lecturers from the Institute of Health Sciences Research (IICS in Spanish) from the National University of Asunción (UNA in Spanish). Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA), March 20 and 21.
- 2.- Update Conferences on Microbiology. Lecturers from the Central Laboratory of Public Health, Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare Social (MSPyBS in Spanish). Institute of Health Sciences Research (IICS-UNA). Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA). April, 24 and 25.
- 3.- Update Conferences on puncture liquids. Lecturers: professionals from the Central Laboratory of the Hospital de Clínicas, Faculty of Medical Sciences. Central Laboratory (MSPyBS). Central Hospital of the Social Security Institute (IPS in Spanish). Paraguayan Society of Pneumology. Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA). May 22 and 23.
- 4.- Update on A-H1N1 Influenza. Direction of Health Surveillance. Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. May 29
- 5.- The clinical laboratory in the Older Adult. Lecturers: Service of Geriatry. Buongermini Geriatric Hospital and Central Hospital of the Security Social Institute (IPS). Paraguayan Society of Geriatry and Gerontology. Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA). June 26 and 27
- 6.- Update Course in Internal Environment. Lecturers; Central Hospital of the Social Security Institute (IPS). Institute of Tropical Medicine (MSPyBS). Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA). July 24 and 25
- 7.- Update Conferences of the Association of Biochemists of Paraguay (ABP), Affiliate Encarnación. August 19 and 20
- 8.- International Conferences of Point of Care Testing. Sponsored by the IFCC Visitor Lecturer Program. Lecturers: Drs. Ellis Jacobs, Khosrow Adeli and Christopher Price. Sponsored by Index for its representative Abbott DX. Sponsored by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA). September 1 to 3
- 9.- Course of implantation and implementation of the Program of Internal Quality Control in clinical laboratories with emphasis in the areas of Clinical Chemistry, Hematology and Microbiology. Lecturers from the ABP and the Central Laboratory of Public Health, MSPyBS. November 20 and 21

We participated in the meetings of the Sectorial Committee 20 Mercosur (CSM20), Institute of Metrology and Standardization of Paraguay with vote of guidelines approval

- PNM 20:02- Laboratories of clinical analysis – Determination of reference values.
- PNM 20:02-ISO 17511: Medical products for *in vitro* diagnosis use- Measuring of values in simples from biological origin – Metrologic traceability of values assigned to calibrated and control materials.
- PNM 20: 01 0008 Samples collection.
- PNM 20: 01 0009 Clinical laboratory. Pre-analytical phase – Part 3. Register of patient. Samples collection. Reception of material collected by the patient, identification, distribution to the different departments, transport and storage. (Future NM 311-3)
- PNM 20:02-008 Laboratory of clinical analysis – Parasitological stool analysis.
- PNM 20:02 AMN Guideline XXXX – Laboratory of Clinical Analysis - Procedures for parasites determination.

The CSM 20 Paraguay Committee prepared a project of standards on Parasitology that was presented in the 18th Meeting of the Sectorial Committee at Mercosur level in Fortaleza. In this meeting, Paraguay was assigned to make a Standard and a guideline based on the presented document to be presented at the 19th Mercosur Meeting of the CSM 20.

Regional relations

RELATION WITH COLABIOCLI

- 1.- The composition of the Board of Directors of the ABP 2008-2010 was officially communicated.
- 2.- In relation to the COLABIOCLI 2010 Congress, the dates (April 20 to 24, 2010) and location (Santiago de Chile) were informed in the meeting of the Working Group Rincon Iberoamericano held during the European Congress of Clinical Chemistry.
- 3.- There was a continuous communication with the President of COLABIOCLI, Dr. Ana Leticia de Maselli and the authorities of the Congress and the Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry in relation to the COLABIOCLI 2010 Congress. Lectures were submitted by request of the Organizing Committee.
- 4.- The composition of the new Board of Directors of the Uruguayan Biochemical Association was informed.

FOLLOWING CONGRESSES ABP SPONSORED:

- 1.- Mayas Conferences in the city of Sucre for the 200 years of Independence of Bolivia organized by the Association of Biochemists of Sucre, member of the Bolivian Association of Clinical Chemistry, May 1 to 3.
- 2.- XIX Latin American Congress of Parasitology, FLAP. October 22 to 24, Asunción, Paraguay
- 3.- X International Congress of the Collage of Bacteriologists of Colombia, October 9 to 12
- 4.- Congress of the Association of Biochemists of Uruguay, November
- 5.- X Congress of the Unified Biochemical Confederation of the Argentinean Republic, November 11 to 14, Mar del Plata. There were 120 Paraguayan professionals and biochemistry students.
- 6.- X National Congress of the Society of Clinical Biochemists of Ecuador SEBIOCLI to be held in March 25 to 28, 2010 in Quito, Ecuador

International relations

RELATION WITH IFCC

- 1.- The sponsorship of IFCC for the XIX Latin American Congress of Parasitology, held in October 2009, was requested being the ABP an organizing body, the relevant documentation was presented in due time and form so that Asunción, Capital of Paraguay, was the venue of the 2010 General Conference being elected Corfú, Greece.
- 2.- VLP 2009 (Visiting Lecturer Program) of the Educational and Management Division:
 - 2.a International Conference of Point of Care testing given by Drs. Ellis Jacobs, Khosrow Adeli and Christopher Price, September 1 to 3, Hotel Crown, Asunción.
 - 2.b Conference given by Dr. Ellis Jacobs in the Faculty of Chemical Sciences (UNA)
 - 2.c Questionnaire during the event Lab are Vital in order to evaluate the interventions made by the ABP because of the results obtained in the first questionnaire applied during the V National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry in 2008.
- 3.- Dr. Montserrat Blanes attended the meeting of Publications and Communications Division as Editor of Diagnóstico in Vitro, Editor of Rincón Iberoamericano and Chair of the Working Group Iberoamerican Nomenclatures and Translations, presiding the working session of this mentioned working group She also participated in the meetings of the IFCC Committee of Public Relations and the meeting called by the IFCC Presidency in June in Innsbruck, Austria within the frame of the Congress of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry Societies.
- 4.- The 2008 Annual Report was submitted.
- 5.- Dr. Juana Ortellado de Canese, as Director of the Laboratory of the Maternal Children Center of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UNA, was designated as member of the IFCC International Congress of Pediatrics, May 2011 held in Berlin.
- 6.- A positive vote was issued in due time and form for the acceptance of the new full members of IFCC 2009.

Additional information

- 1.- The Program of External Quality Control was fulfilled.
Serum with values assigned from Human were used in Clinical Chemistry after exhaustive cost-benefit and cost-opportunity analyses.
In Bacteriology, the preparation of materials was assigned to the Service of Microbiology, Central Laboratory of the Hospital de Clínicas, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UNA
In Parasitology, the preparation of materials was assigned to the Service of Parasitology, Central Laboratory of the Hospital de Clínicas, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UNA
We still had the collaboration of the Institute of Health Sciences Research (IICS), UNA
The whole chronogram of planned activities was fulfilled

2.- In March, the webpage WWW.ABP.ORG.PY started to be operative.

3.- We continued working with the Self-Evaluation Project based in competences in the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, UNA proposed by the Dimension 5 "Definition of professional competences". Result and impact: Component Graduated Students.

4.- The ABP was invited to the meetings called by the Ministry of Health in relation to the new regulations for designations, promotion ladder and rationalization of human resources in health. We participated in the Sectorial meeting of the Direction of human resources of the MSPyBS sponsored by PAHO. Currently, ABP is represented in the Laboratory of human resources in health of the American Region by Dr. Montserrat Blanes

5.- We participated in the Assembly of the Federation of Chemists of Paraguay held in Mayo with the attendance of the full number of entitled delegates of ABP.

6.- There were meetings with the ABP affiliates of Itapúa, Alto Paraná and Guairá. There was a scientific activity with the Biochemist Association of Itapua with participation of national colleagues and from the frontier city Posadas, Argentina with the sponsorship of the National University of Itapua.

7.- There were technical meetings with the authorities responsible of the Central Laboratory of Public Health about the following subjects: PEEC and Program of Laboratories Authorization. Currently, we are working in the Update of Authorization Regulations including the modification of evaluation standards in order to find a consensus for the benefit of the Clinical Laboratories of Paraguay and for the exercise of the Biochemistry.

8.- We sponsored and participated in all the activities of continuous education of the Association of Microbiologists of Paraguay.



POLAND

POLISH SOCIETY OF LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Laboratory diagnostics in the clinical practice	May 8-9, 2009, Kraków	1.Laboratory diagnostics of the chronic renal insufficiency 2.New tumor markers and new faces of old ones 3.The future of the laboratory diagnostics of cardiovascular diseases 4.Advances in endocrinological diagnostics
XV Lubuski Meeting with Laboratory Diagnostics	November 26-27, 2009 , Łagów Lubuski	1.Advances in hematology 2.Relation between renal impairment and coronary artery disease
Joint Conference of the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics, College of Laboratory Medicine in Poland & National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosticians	June 25, 2009, Kraków	Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine
Scientific meetings on the occasion of 45th Anniversary of the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics	May, 15-16, 2009, Szklarska Poręba June 26-27. 2009, Międzyzdroje September 22, 2009, Warszawa November 5 ,2009, Sosnowiec	Laboratory diagnostics: yesterday, today and tomorrow
Poznań Branch of the PTDL Scientific Conference	April 17-18, 2009, Boszkowo	Laboratory diagnostics of the gastrointestinal disease
Kielce Branch of the PTDL Scientific Conference	November 14, 2009, Ameliówka	Relation between laboratory test results and disease management



PORTUGAL

SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE QUÍMICA CLÍNICA PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
1 st Portuguese Joint Congress of Laboratory Medicine (Congresso Nacional Conjunto do Laboratório Clínico)	October 13-16, 2009	Laboratory Medicine in Health Care



ROMANIA

ROMANIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE (RSLM)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
National Congress	October 16-18, 2009 IASI	VARIA



RUSSIA

RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS SPECIALISTS

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
1. All-Russian forum for Laboratory specialists in frame of the traditional annual meeting "National days of laboratory medicine of Russia", Moscow - "Laboratory medicine in the development of public health services of Russia till 2020" with Clinical Lab Expo "Interlabdiagnostics-2009"	September 28-30, 2009	1. Strategies and tactics of laboratory investigations in different disciplines of clinical medicine; 2. Development of the organization and activity of medical laboratories (maintenance of instruments and other equipment, quality assurance of laboratory results, requirements of the Federal Law, organizational-economical problems of laboratory services, education and training of experts in Laboratory Medicine. quantities and units of measurements in Laboratory Medicine and Metrology)
2. Conference "Technologies and Innovations in Laboratory Medicine", Moscow	March 30-31, 2009	Resources and activity of laboratory service of Russia. Strategy of development of clinical laboratory diagnostics. Quality Assurance. Problems of metrological certification. Laboratory technologies in Hematology and Immunology. Laboratory technologies in

		Biochemistry and Immunochemistry. Molecular Diagnostics and Nanotechnology.
3. XIII Annual Forum "Days of Immunology 2008" in St. Petersburg, Russia	June 8-11, 2009	Nanotechnology for immunology. Primary Immunodeficiency Disorders.

Education

1. During All-Russian forum for Laboratory specialists "National days of laboratory medicine of Russia" the question about edition of the National Guidance on clinical laboratory diagnosis and the textbook.
2. Symposium «Primary immunoDeficiency Disorders» in frame of XIII Annual Forum "Days of Immunology 2008" in St. Petersburg, Russia (international educational project on primary immunodeficiency disorders – j-project) in collaboration with the Eastern and Central European infectious and Pediatric Immunology Center, Debrecen, Hungary.
3. "School of innovations in the field of laboratory medicine" was organized in frame of Conference "Optimization of dialogue between clinicians and laboratory. Metrological aspects of quality" with LabExpo, St.-Petersburg, Russia June 15-16, 2009. IFCC, AACC and Russian speakers brought education information about new laboratory approaches in clinical practice and standardization procedures.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Conference "Optimization of dialogue between clinicians and laboratory. Metrological aspects of quality" with LabExpo, St.-Petersburg, Russia	June 15-16, 2009	Conference was organized by St.-Petersburg Branch of Russian Association for Medical Laboratory Diagnostics (SPbRAMLD) with support of Russian Ministry of Health Care and Social development, Auspices of the IFCC (IFCC speakers Anders Kallner and Tomas Brinkmann) and participation of AACC speakers (Barbara M. Goldsmith, James H. Nichols and Nader Rifai)

Regional relations

It was registered 836 laboratory specialists from 63 regions of Russia in All-Russian forum for Laboratory specialists in frame of the traditional annual meeting "National days of laboratory medicine of Russia", Moscow, 28-30.09.2009/
200 participants from 16 regions of Russian Federation visited conference Conference "Optimization of dialogue between clinicians and laboratory. Metrological aspects of quality" with LabExpo, St.-Petersburg, Russia.

International relations

1. 29 experts from Armenia, Great Britain, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the USA, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Germany participated in All-Russian forum for Laboratory specialists in frame of the traditional annual meeting "National days of laboratory medicine of Russia", Moscow. It was edited the Abstract book "Laboratory medicine in the development of public health services of Russia till 2020" with 133 presentations of authors from 31 regions of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and Sweden.
2. Conference "Optimization of dialogue between clinicians and laboratory. Metrological aspects of quality" with LabExpo, St.-Petersburg, Russia, was organized with Auspices of the IFCC. Program booklet and Abstract book received IFCC logo.
3. During Conference "Optimization of dialogue between clinicians and laboratory. Metrological aspects of quality" with LabExpo, St.-Petersburg two Agreements have been made between AACC for Clinical Chemistry Journal (publisher Mac Fancher) and Journal of St.-Petersburg Branch of Russian Association for Medical Laboratory Diagnostics "Clinical Laboratory Consilium" and between AACC for Clinical Chemistry Journal and Pavlov State Medical University to translate Review articles and Clinical Case Studies in "Consilium" and in other Journals published in Pavlov State Medical University.



SERBIA

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
XII th Scientific Conference "Professor Ivan Berkes"	December 4, 2009, Belgrade	The best master and doctoral thesis are presented and the best graduated students in Medical Biochemistry at Pharmaceutical Faculty are awarded by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Education

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia in 2009 organised four educational seminars for the members on the following topics:

1. IFCC standardisation
2. HbA1c standardisation and unites
3. Novelties in laboratory diagnostics
4. Point-of-Care Diagnostics

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
5 th EFCC Symposium for Balkan Region – Proteins: from electrophoresis to proteomics Under IFCC end EFCC Auspices	October 8-10, 2009, Belgrade	Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia was organizer of the Symposium
XVI th Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation	September 16-18, 2009, Ohrid, Macedonia	Organisation of the Round table Discussion on "Accreditation of Medical Laboratories" Presentation of the Plenary Lectures and number of posters

Regional relations

With all Societies from Balkan Region, members of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF)

International relations

Cooperation with other Societies members of IFCC and EFCC
Participation on EuroMedLab Innsbruck 2009
Participations in other Meetings

Additional information

The members of the Society appointed by Ministry of Health of Serbia actively participated in activities of The Chamber of Medical Biochemists of Serbia that work on all regulation of medical biochemistry (Clinical Chemistry) as profession in health service of Serbia.

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia actively participates in Accreditation Body of Serbia and Agency for Accreditation of Health Institutions. Through the Accreditation Commission the Society applied ISO 15189 in medical laboratories in Serbia.

In cooperation with Institute for Medical Biochemistry of Clinical Centre of Serbia, the Society continues the organisation of external quality control scheme – SNEQAS in all laboratories in the country.



SLOVAK REPUBLIC

SLOVAK SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (SSKB)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Labquality	May 22-27, 2009	Quality in Medical Laboratories



SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Pathtec (Combined meeting with technologists)	September 6-10, 2009	Quality, Point of Care, Chronic diseases of lifestyle, methods comparison, management

Education

Management Workshop on Quality, September 5, 2009

Regional relations

The association has played a key role in keeping contact with the Kenyan and Nigerian Associations of Clinical Chemistry. Members of these societies regularly attend our annual meetings.

International relations

The SAACB helped establish the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry in Nigeria on October 24, 2009. The current president of SAACB, Prof Vanessa Steenkamp was elected as its first president of the AFCC. The meeting was attended by 4 associations and executive members and there was active participation in the congress through the deliverance of plenary talks and 5 guest lectures. The association has encouraged the training of clinical chemists from other countries in Africa. 2 physicians from Nigeria are expected to arrive in South Africa to gain experience in quality assurance programs and receive further specialist training in the field of clinical chemistry with specific emphasis on endocrinology and inborn errors of metabolism.

Additional information

The association is trying to establish and maintain close contacts with IFCC and APCB. A case study on cystic fibrosis was published in the APCB newsletter (2009). It is also in close contact with other pathology affiliated societies in South Africa as well as the Association of Pathologists of Central and Southern Africa (APECSA).



SLOVENIA

SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
SZKK (Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry – SZKK) Symposium	March 11, 2009, Ljubljana	Thyroid cancer
SZKK Symposium	May 28, 2009, Maribor	Sepsis
SZKK and Slovenian Transfusiology Society Symposium	September 10, 2009, Ljubljana	Primary care organisation of medical laboratories

SZKK Symposium	October 22, 2009, Ljubljana	Automatisation and process leadership approach in medical laboratories
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Education

- October 24-25, 2009, Dubrovnik, Croatia – 9th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course: »New trends in classification, diagnosis and management of thyroid diseases« (in organization of EFCC, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry);

- November 26, 2009 Ljubljana, Slovenia, 3rd. International conference on quality and accreditation of medical laboratories;

- Educational Course for Internal Assesors – ISO 15189 and Slovenian Bylaw in Laboratory Medicine (in organization of Slovenian Institute for Quality, Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Slovenian Chamber for Laboratory Medicine);

- Organization of Educational Courses for Medical Laboratory Technicians (5 different topics);

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course: »New trends in classification, diagnosis and management of thyroid diseases« (in organization of EFCC, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry)	October 24-25, 2009, Dubrovnik, Croatia	(in organization of EFCC, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry);
3 rd . International conference on quality and accreditation of medical laboratories	November 26, 2009, Ljubljana, Slovenia	in organization of Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry, under the auspices of EFCC;

Regional relations

Alpe – Adria Societies

- cooperation of Slovenian Association for Clinical chemistry (SZKK) and Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists

International relations

Active member of IFCC, EFCC



SPAIN

SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE BIOQUÍMICA CLÍNICA Y PATOLOGÍA MOLECULAR

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Course, Córdoba	February 4, 2009	Management criteria of the Prenalytical step
Course, Valencia	March 4, 2009	Management criteria of the Prenalytical step
Course, Santander	April, 1, 2009	Management criteria of the Prenalytical step
Course, Barcelona	April 29, 2009	Management of the security in the clinical laboratory
VII meeting of scientific committee, Girona	May 11-12, 2009	Andrology laboratory: Recommendations for the semen study and interpretation of the

		seminal test. Rare autoimmune diseases: Laboratory contributions and practical applications Functional foods: Role of the clinical laboratory and new perspectives Androgenic function in the laboratory Updating in the study of plasma proteins Interpretation of blood gases data
Seminario web	May 27, 2009	Controversies about using PSA
Course, Madrid	June 4, 2009	Security management in the clinical laboratory
Seminario web	September 23, 2009	High sensitivity cardiac troponins. ¿Solution or confusion?
XXVIII National meeting, Valencia	October 14-16, 2008	III meeting of Clinical Laboratory
Education		
Annual Education programme, 9 lessons and 9 Clinical cases, with 800 registrations		
Regional relations		
SEQC has collaborations with all the regional associations of Clinical Chemistry		
International relations		
Additional information		
Evaluation programmes of external preanalytical quality. Evaluation programmes of external quality of biochemistry tests: stat lab, hormones, proteins, blood gases, cardiac markers, tumor markers, autoimmunity in urine and serum specimens. Farmaindustria award to the best initiative to the patient service, for developing the spanish Labtest on line, in the sanitary environment category,		



SWITZERLAND

SWISS SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
SGKC/SSCC General Assembly and Annual Congress 2009, Lugano	September 16-18, 2009	"Clinical Chemistry: not only test tubes!" www.sccc-lugano2009.ch
Molecular Diagnostics Course, Zurich	March 5-6, 2009	Molecular diagnostics www.molekularediagnostik.ch
Education		
Publication of drug monographs on our homepage www.sccc.ch . These open access monographs provide detailed information regarding therapeutic drug monitoring of frequently administered drugs (n=31). The monographs are written in English and are clinically useful.		



SYRIA

SYRIAN CLINICAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION (SCLA)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual meeting of chairmen's of Syrian Association in Regions	January 22-23, 2009	1- Continuous education program 2- Social & health program 3- Quality Assurance program
General Assemblu of SCLA	May 21-22, 2009	1- Annual report of EB 2- Education program 3- National journal and its role in education program 4- Improving the quality of social & health program 5- International & regional relation
Symposium on: Inflammation Markers& Cardiovascular Disease Collaboration with The Arab International University in Syria and IFCC	April 23-24, 2009	1- HS CRP 2- Calcitonin 3- New markers in CVD 4- Other topics
Beginner's Course in Molecular Diagnostics collaboration with Committee - Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC) – IFCC and International University for Science and Technology (Syria)	December 5-9, 2009	1- Introduction to IFCC- EMD , C-CMBC Issues 2- DNA isolation and analysis techniques 3- PCR and Amplication protocols 4- Specific Detection Methods 5- Introductory to assay design tools 6- Discution of results
Education		
1- Monthly central program in Damascus 2- Monthly program in 4 cities around Syria 3- Distant learning program 4- Strength national journal role in education program 5- Strength the role of national website in the education program and quality assurance program		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
National Tunisian meeting	May 2009	Arab Federation societies
1 st National meeting of Algerian society	May 2009	Arab Federation societies
Regional relations		
Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association has a very good relation with all national societies at the region through AFCB Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association plays important role improving the Quality Assurance program in Sudan and Jordan and palatine		
International relations		
1- SCLA is an active member in IFCC 2- SCLA has a good relation with WHO		
Additional information		
1- SCLA plays a effective role in improving the legislation procedure in Syria and improve at 2009 many procedures cooperation with Ministry of Health 2- SCLA improve the education program about Quality Assurance & Accreditation in Syria 3- SCLA plays effective role to upgrade the laboratory services around Syria in private sector 4- Starting the infra structure to at educational level to start Quality Assurance program in Bacteriology		



TAIWAN

CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (CACB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 24 th Joint Annual Conference of Biomedical Science: Plenary lecture	March 21-22, 2009	A new microfluidic platform technology for fast diagnosis. By Prof. Gwo-Bin Lee
The 24 th Joint Annual Conference of Biomedical Science: Symposium	March 21-22, 2009	The Adopting Trend for Information Technology on Laboratory Automation By Dr. Po-Hsun Cheng
		Improvement of Drug Virtual Screen by GA/GP: Docking Studies on Tubulin Inhibitors as Anticancer Agents By Dr. Kuo-Long Lou
		New Challenge in Data Management for Ultrahigh Throughput DNA Sequencing By Dr. Lan-Yang Ch'ang
		The Use of Laboratory Information System in Clinical Laboratory By Dr. Kuo-Chien Tsao

Additional information

Annual meeting (March 21-22, 2009)

A students' research poster contest was held in 2009 annual meeting. The two-day annual meeting was successful and truly a fruitful academic gathering for the CACB members.

Election:

Dr. Min-Long Lai was elected as the President of CACB at the end of 2009, and Prof. Shu-Chu Shiesh became the IFCC National Representative.



TURKEY

TURKISH BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY (TBS)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
National Congress of Biochemistry	October 28-31, 2009	Adding value to laboratory medicine: Cancer and clinical laboratory; Expectations of clinicians from laboratory in cancer, M30 antigene: A new biomarker for response to chemotherapy; Tumor markers: Yesterday, today and tomorrow; Clinical case studies; Laboratory management: Evidence-based laboratory medicine, Central laboratory management in hospital settings, Clinical performance of laboratory tests and ROC analysis, Rational test utilization, Reporting of laboratory test results; Laboratory safety; Quality management: Quality management in emergency laboratory; Quality control and validation of genetic testing; Standardization of external quality control; One-carbon metabolism and public health: Regulatory mechanisms for one-carbon metabolism; One-carbon metabolism with a perspective of evince-based laboratory medicine; One-carbon metabolism in geriatry and ischemic stroke

Education		
Course on Biostatistics: October 28, 2009		
Course on Molecular diagnostic techniques: October 28, 2009		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Conference on Olive oil, minor constituents and health	March 20, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Conference on Enzymatic mechanisms in cancer metastasis	May 8, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Conference on Hemoglobinopathy problem in Turkey and the role of biochemist	May 22, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Conference on Paraoxonase and clinical importance	June 3, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Conference on New tests and study areas in oxidant and antioxidant status	June 3, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Conference on Angiogenesis and clinical importance	December 9, 2009, Ankara	Organized and managed by Society (TBS)
Course on Proteomics Researches: Basics and Clinical Application	December 10-11, 2009, Istanbul	Organized by TBS of İstanbul
Course on Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine	January 11-16, 2009, İzmir (Kuşadası)	Organized by TBS of İzmir in coordination with IFCC C-EBLM
Conference on Evidence-based Medicine and Evidence-based laboratory medicine	January 19, 2009, Denizli	Organized by TBS of İzmir in coordination with IFCC C-EBLM and Pamukkale University, Faculty of Medicine, and sponsored by the IFCC Visitor Lecturer Program
Conference on Diagnosis and Management of Porphyrias; The Role of Clinical Laboratories	January 20, 2009, İzmir	Organized by TBS of İzmir Faculty of Medicine, and sponsored by the IFCC Visitor Lecturer Program
Conference on Drug Resistance Mechanisms in Cancer and Its Control by Molecular and Biochemical Methods	April 13, 2009, İzmir	Organized by TBS of İzmir
Conference on Insulin Resistance and Endothelial Dysfunction	November 17, 2009, İzmir	Organized by TBS of İzmir
Memorial Meeting for Prof. Dr. Sermet Erilaçın	December 1, 2009, İzmir	Organized by TBS of İzmir
Molecular Genetic Methods in Diagnosis Biochemistry Summer School: Application of DNA Microarray Technology	May 11-15, 2009, Adana	Organized by TBS of Adana
In The Memory of Prof.Dr. Yüksel Özdemir, III. Symposium on Quality Assurance for Medical Laboratories	February 5-6, 2009, Adana	Organized by TBD of Adana
Regional relations		
Activities in the decision making processes of Turkish Ministry of Health		
Opinion of the society on the regulation in education and training of specialists in medicine: sent to Turkish		

Chamber of Physicians, June 12, 2009.

Opinion of the society on the regulation in performance and quality in laboratory medicine: sent to Ministry of Health, November 5, 2009.

Notification of Ministry of Health about education and training in laboratory medicine in Europe and North America and IFCC principles: sent to Ministry of Health, November 11, 2009.

Media publications:

Notification of Medical Press (Medimagazin) on education and training in laboratory medicine in Europe and North America and IFCC principles: December 14, 2009.

Studies with The Turkish Union of Medical Specialists (syllabus preparing, etc.)

International relations

Transmission of reports, documents, and publications of IFCC and EFCC to members of the society.

National representative of

- International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)
- Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)
- Balkan Clinical Laboratories Federation (BCLF)

TBS has members and corresponding members of Committees of International Organizations:

- IFCC Congress and Conference Division
- IFCC C-EBLM
- IFCC WG-HbA1c Standardization
- IFCC C-ECD
- FEBS Educational Committee
- IFCC C-RIDL



UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS (USCLD)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Advanced Technologies in Laboratory Diagnostics	June 5, 2009	Development of co-operation between IFCC and USCLD. New Trends in Nephritis Diagnostics and its Therapy; Current aspects of Homeostasis; Disorders Diagnostics; Quantitative Cytological Methods for Diagnostics of Different Pathologies; New Laboratory Methods for Diagnostics of Early HIV Infection; Molecular Mimicry and Non-Specific Reactions in Serological Diagnostics of HIV Infection; Antibodies Avidity in Diagnostics of Infections; Microscopic and Biochemical Analysis of Urea. Analysis Quality and Automation Improvement; Advanced Diagnostics of Pregnancy Pathology; Laboratory Diagnostics in Obstetrics and Gynecology;

		New WHO Classification of Lymphoid Tumors; Management of Laboratory Quality Analysis; Ensuring and Control of Preanalytical Stage;
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
USCLD Zaporizhzhya Branch Quality Management of Preanalytical Stage of Blood Analysis; Quality Management of Hemocytology Blood, Marrow, Lymphoid Tissue; Diagnostics of Strongyloidosis; Modern Trend in EIA Regulations	March 15, 2009	Lectures by the members of USCLD. Materials publication in the Laboratory Diagnostics journal;
USCLD Ivano-Frankivsk Branch Influenza: Epidemiology, Pathogenesis, Laboratory Diagnostics, Prophylaxis, Epidemiological History of Influenza On Prykarpattya	April 16, 2009	Coordination of meeting program and speaker support
Oncology Diseases in Ukraine and on Prykarpattya. Clinic and Pathogenesis of Female Genital Organs and Mammalian Oncology Diseases	June 20, 2009	Coordination of meeting program and speaker support
Rheological Properties of Blood Methods of Analysis	September 6, 2009	Coordination of meeting program and speaker support
Clinic Pathogenesis and Diagnostics of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Trichomoniasis and Skin Diseases	November 21, 2009	Coordination of meeting program and speaker support
USCLD Kryvyj Rih Branch Quality Control of Laboratory Analyses, Laboratory Diagnostics of Diabetes mellitus; Laboratory Diagnostics of Parasitic Infections; Cytological Analysis of Lung Cancer	May 18, 2009	Coordination of meeting program and speaker support
Education		
<i>Under auspices of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine</i> Modern Laboratory Diagnostic Methods in Oncology and Hematology	December 5, 2009	Cytomorphology, Cytochemistry and Immunocytology of Acute Myeloid and Lymphoid Leukemia; Diagnostics of Tumor Diseases of Blood-Forming and Lymphoid Tissues (<i>workshop</i>)
	December 6, 2009	Cytology and Immunophenotypic Peculiarities of Tumors from Mature B-, T- and HK-Cells; Diagnostics of Tumor Diseases of Blood-Forming

		and Lymphoid Tissues (<i>workshop</i>); Presentation of New Laboratory Diagnostics Guide for Oncology and Hematology Diseases
Issue of Training Appliances: “Laboratory Hematology” “Quality Management in Laboratory Hematology” E-Atlas “Laboratory Hematology”		



UNITED KINGDOM

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (ACB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine, Birmingham	January 27-29, 2009	Leading edge innovations in the delivery of laboratory medicine services
FOCUS 09, Manchester	May 18-21, 2009	Scientific and Clinical presentations on leading topics by international experts
Joint ACB AACC meetings in Newport Beach, CA & London, UK	May 6-7, 2009 & September 3-4, 2009	Latest advances in chronic disease diagnosis and management.
Education		
Two one-week Training Courses in the cycle of six courses: training day at Focus meeting		
Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
All nine regions hold scientific and clinical meetings 2-3 times per year on a wide variety of topics	various	Organised by the ACB, some meetings are joint with other societies
Regional relations		
While the ACB represents the UK, the country is divided into four administrations and the ACB is engaged with the devolved governments. There is also national collaboration with other laboratory organisations on a variety of political issues.		
International relations		
The ACB has engagement in a variety of positions. As an organisation we have formal relations with other Clinical Biochemistry Associations, particularly in the area of publication of our journal and discounted rates for our publications to them and theirs to us. We also have reciprocal arrangements for presenting prestigious lectures at our National Meetings.		
This year, the ACB has opened its membership to all healthcare professionals with an interest in clinical biochemistry.		
Additional information		
This year the ACB, along with other shareholders, sold CPA to the national accreditation service UKAS. The ACB continues to look to expand its membership.		



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (AACC)

See list of 2009 AACC Meetings

The Lab's Critical Role in Managing Hospital-Acquired Infections	Audio		December 16, 2009	
Reimbursement Update 2010	Audio		November 18, 2009	
Biological Marker Assay Development and Validation	CONF	Lansdale, PA	November 13, 2009	November 13, 2009
Update on POCT including regulatory concerns	LS	New Orleans, LA	November 5, 2009	November 7, 2009
Translating Novel Biomarkers to Clinical Practice: Role and Opportunities for the Clinical Laboratory	CONF	Bethesda, MD	November 5, 2009	November 6, 2009
Lab Automation: Finding the Right Fit for Your Lab	CONF	Salt Lake City, UT	October 29, 2009	October 30, 2009
Laboratory Automation	CONF	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	October 22, 2009	October 23, 2009
Health Care Reform and the Clinical Laboratory	Audio		October 13, 2009	
Bad to the Bone: Understanding the Role Bone Markers Play in Patient Therapy	Webinar		October 8, 2009	
JUPITER and Beyond: The Future of hsCRP in Assessing CVD Risk	Audio		October 7, 2009	
2009 Molecular Pathology Essentials: Diagnosis and Targeted Therapy	CONF	Copenhagen, Denmark Denmark	October 1, 2009	October 2, 2009
Personalized Medicine in Oncology and the Management of Chemotherapeutics	CONF	Baltimore, MD	September 23, 2009	September 24, 2009
The Future of Vitamin D Testing	Audio		September 17, 2009	
Latest Advances in Chronic Disease	CONF	London, United Kingdom	September 3, 2009	September 4, 2009

2009 AACC/CSCC Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	CONF	Chicago, IL	July 18, 2009	July 23, 2009
Weathering the Storm: Surviving and Succeeding in Today's Economy	Webinar		June 24, 2009	
Laboratory QC: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice	Webinar		June 17, 2009	
Genetic Testing Oversight... 2009 and Beyond	Audio		March 3, 2009	
Personalized Medicine and the Clinical Laboratory -- What the Future Holds	Audio		May 20, 2009	
The Expanding Role of Clinical Pathology: Adding Value to the Drug Discovery & Development Process	CONF	Groton, CT	May 15, 2009	May 15, 2009
New Directions in Bone Marker Measurement	Audio		May 12, 2009	
Latest Advances in Chronic Disease	CONF	Newport Beach, CA	May 6, 2009	May 7, 2009
The Lab's Changing Role in Managing Infectious Diseases	CONF	Atlanta, GA	April 28, 2009	April 28, 2009
Autoverification: Great Rules and New Tools for Getting the Most from Your LIS	Audio		April 22, 2009	
2009 Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry: A Review and Update	CONF	Alexandria, VA	April 19, 2009	April 23, 2009
41st Oak Ridge Conference	CONF	Baltimore, MD	April 16, 2009	April 17, 2009
The Lab's Role in Optimizing Antiplatelet Therapy: A Personalized Medicine Approach	Audio		April 2, 2009	
Demystifying Clinical Use of Cardiac Markers	CONF	Orlando, FL	March 28, 2009	March 28, 2009
Managing Diagnostics Data for Improved Patient	Webinar		March 3, 2009	

Outcomes: A Case Study				
Using NT-proBNP to Assess Cardiovascular Risk in the Elderly	Audio		January 29, 2009	
Hemoglobin A1c Comes of Age: New Uses for Today and Possibilities for Tomorrow	Audio		December 9, 2008	



URUGUAY

URUGUAYAN ASSOCIATION OF BIOCHEMICAL

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
VII Congress of Clinical Biochemistry	November 12-15, 2009	New Technologies
Annual meeting Quality Cecc	April 24-25, 2009	Review of activities 2008
Meeting of Standardization of Creatinine	December 12, 2009	
Education		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> April 27-28: Latin American Working Group AACC Training and education for the laboratory community in Latin America. Miami- City August 14-15: Course "The Pharmacist in the diabetes team". within the Permanent Education Program of the Faculty of Chemistry, given in the countryside, in "Los Naranjos Hotel" Salto city. Coordination: Prof. Dr. Eduardo Savio. Lecturers: Prof. Dra. Marta Vazquez (FQ)Prof.Dra. Stella Raymondo (FQ y ABU)Q.F.Sandra Dos Santos (AQyF): Lic. Nut.Virginia Natero (Nutrition School)Representative of the Medical Continuous Education Program of the Society of Diabetology September 14-October 12: Distance course "Advances in Management for Clinical Laboratories" within the Permanent Education Program of the Faculty of Chemistry. Coordination: Prof. Dr. Stella Raymondo. Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Montserrat Blanes (Paraguay). September 22-23-October 6-7: Course "The Pharmacist in the diabetes team". within the Permanent Education Program of the Faculty of Chemistry, given in the Prof.Piriz Mc Call red Room , Faculty of Chemistry. Montevideo . Coordination: Prof. Dr. Eduardo Savio. Lecturers: Prof. Dra. Marta Vazquez (FQ Prof.Dra. Stella Raymondo (FQ y ABU)Q.F.Sandra Dos Santos (AQyF)Lic. Nut.Virginia Natero (Nutrition School)Representative of the Medical Continuous Education Program of the Society of Diabetology October 30-31: Sponsorship given to the course "Implementation of ISO 15189 in the Clinical Laboratory" taught by Dr. Gabriel Migliarino (Argentine) and Dr. Silvia Depardo (Argentine) in the Balmoral Hotel, Montevideo, Uruguay November 6: Nomination of the Corresponding membership within the Committee on Education & Curriculum Development, Prof. Dra. Graciela Borthagaray November 15: ABU General Assembly approved a Grant internal regulation, that will permit to collaborate with the improvement of its membership scientific and professional level. 		
Regional relations		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> August 23: Formulary distribution between the Latin-American national societies for the "Cellular Diagnostic" application. Prof. S. Raymondo. October 6:- Survey of Suppliers of External Assessment Program, PAHO WHO request to establish joint activities COLABIOCLI. 		

International relations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> January 15-16: EMD-EC Meeting Milán. Prof. Dr. Stella Raymondo's participation. June 6-7: EMD-EC Meeting. EuroMedLab Innsbruck(Austria). Prof. Dra. Stella Raymondo.
Additional information
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> January 8: Searching for international relations between Dr. Ana Quiala (Cuban colleague) and specialist in the topic "Safety Management in Clinical Laboratories", as a result of an IFCC office request. Following this intervention Dr. Quiala established fruitful connections that allowed her to advance their postgraduate studies. March 15: Approval of the CECC Statutes by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay September/October 2009: eNewsletter:" News from Uruguay - Implementation of a standardization process for creatinine measurement in Uruguay October 29: Pagina Web de la ABU página www.Asocbioquimicauruguay.org November 9: Participation in the drafting of the rules governing the "Transport of Samples in the Country", through the Inter Institutional Committee for Clinical Laboratory of the Ministry of Public Health November 15: General Assembly of ABU. with the following agenda: 1) modification of statutes 2) approval of the scholarship regulation and appointment of the Scholarship Committee 3) salary agreement for BC as Laboratory Technical Directors and appointment of the respective working Committee. December 11: General Assembly of Standardization and Quality Control Committee (CECC). Agenda: Designation of new authorities: President: Prof. Dr. Stella Raymondo; Secretary- Prof. Dr. Raquel Ballesté; Tesorera: Prof. Dr. Ana Acevedo; Professional Association Representatives (ABU and SUPAC) have to be chosen by their respective Board in March. December 15: New Year's Eve Party. Tribute to an outstanding professional Q.F. Gladys Amestoy and reception of the new generation of Clinical Biochemistry Annual activities of Interdisciplinary Committee of Clinical Laboratory (Ministers of Health, Uruguay): a) Regulations for Pathological Anatomy activities. (Decree 422/2009). b) 6 Areas were annexed to the Decree governing the Clinical Laboratory (Decree 129/2005): Area of Molecular Biology, Area not Gynecologic Cytology Clinic, Area Spermology, Assisted Human Reproduction, Area Low Complexity, Cytogenetic Area, Toxicological Area. These 6 Areas annexed were approved by the Decree 173/2009. Now the Committee is working with "The requirements for the transport of diagnostic specimens" Annual activities Uruguayan Institute of Technical Standards (ISO Representative): Translation and elaboration of the following regulations for being discussed at MERCOSUR level: a) Preanalytical phase: a.1) analysis request., a.2) Patient preparation; b) Reference values and c) Actually we are working in Urine analysis.



VIETNAM

VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (VACB)		
National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Seminar on Quality Control and Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratory	March 23, 2009, Hanoi March 25, 2009, Hue March 27, 2009, HoChiMinh city	for Northern Provinces for Middle and Central Provinces for Southern province
Seminar in Molecular Biology	April, 2009, HoChiMinh city	
Seminar of the Hanoi and Northern Provinces sub-Association of Clinical Biochemistry	August 21-22, 2009, Hai -Duong	
Annual Scientific meeting of HochiMinh and Southern Provinces sub-Association of Clinical Biochemistry	October 20, 2009	
Education		
16/10/2009, Hà Nội	Acid- base and Renal electrolyte problems.	Pro. Kellerman
International relations		
VLP (Visiting Lecturer Program)		