

Prague EFLM Symposium Focuses on Raising Laboratory Efficiency

by T Zima & I Watson, Meeting Organizers

Rapid changes in technology and automation allied with increasing demands on healthcare budgets are causing a diminution in available funding for laboratories, thereby driving consolidation and requiring innovation. To date there has not been a forum to debate and inform about these issues as they apply to Laboratory Medicine. This was addressed by the meeting entitled "Cutting Edge in Laboratory Management in Europe" held in Prague on October 1–2, 2015 and organized by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Management (EFLM) and the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry (CSKB).

The meeting was aimed at, and attended by, senior company personnel, senior administrators and laboratory directors. Held in the 14th Century Carolinum Patriot Hall of Charles University it was

an ideal venue for the over 70 attendees in an environment that enabled good audience participation and debate.

The potential of automation of microbiological activities as was being delivered by Dr. Anson (Liverpool, UK) digitalization of cell counting Dr. Riedl (The Netherlands) and genomics, promises timely and focused clinical interventions as well as significant opportunities to economize on staffing costs by moving away from labor-intensive practices. The consequence is the need for better partnership working between laboratorians and manufacturers to enable effective, innovative, yet robust and economical delivery; in this vein it was enlightening to learn from speakers from Roche (Dr. Heuer), Abbott (Dr. Yoshimura) and Siemens (Dr. Gammie) what their views were on consolidation, optimization of



automation and how biomarkers are brought to market, but the need for effective traceability to enable harmonization and thus consistency between analytical platforms had been highlighted in the opening presentation by Prof. Panteghini (Italy).

Effective processing procedures need to be established, reviewed and maintained; Prof. Coskun (Turkey) illustrated how the application and revisiting of lean and six sigma utilizing the quality team in his laboratory has led to meaningful changes being identified and effected with the consequence of potentially significant savings and service improvement, he also considered the best metrics to be used to express error rates.

Often laboratory activities are subject to national laws and policies that may change how they operate and an expert view by Dr. Gouget (France) on the changes consequent to significant revisions demanded by the French Government on laboratory accreditation and quality has caused major reorganizations to occur in both the public and private laboratory sectors, he explored the effect of this. Of course international legislative changes may also have significant impact, Dr. Rueda from EDMA (European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association) as Regulatory Affairs Officer is well-versed in the IVD (In Vitro Diagnostic) Device Regulations currently being debated by EU member states for implementation in the next year or so, and this too will impact on laboratories, a notable change will be a requirement, yet to be clarified, for providers of in-house tests to make Notified Bodies aware of the use of such tests in non-research clinical testing and to bring these within the alert system.

Participants engaged in debates and future-gazing, such as the capacity and ability to manage "big data," the "green" impact of IVD devices, and the ethical consequences of incidental significant findings in gene sequencing.

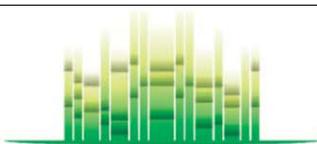
The organizers (Prof. Zima & Dr. Watson) were delighted at the positive feedback received from participants and their many helpful suggestions for future topics. This inaugural meeting promises to be the forerunner of more, as the issues of the future impact of technology, laws and organization affects us all. For those who missed the meeting lectures can be accessed at the EFLM web-site (www.eflm.eu) through the link with the meeting web-site, or directly at www.celme2015.cz.

The support of the meeting sponsors, Abbott, Ceska Sporitelna, Erba Mannheim, Maksense in-dexorSystems, Roche, Siemens, and Sysmex are gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks also to Congress Business Travel for a very professional organization.

The event ran smoothly and feedback from the attendees was very good. The cooperation was perfect and the organization was faultless.

A second CELME Meeting is planned for Spring 2017, if you wish to be kept informed, have ideas for topics, or indeed have an innovative way of delivering laboratory activities, then please provide your contact details to the EFLM Office (silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu) or join the EFLM circulation list at www.eflm.eu.



9th International Scientific Meeting

STRUCTURING EQAS FOR MEETING METROLOGICAL CRITERIA: READY FOR PRIME TIME

MILANO, ITALY
November 27th, 2015



Centro Interdipartimentale per la Riferibilità
Metrologica in Medicina di Laboratorio (CIRME)

under the auspices of



The Joint Committee for
Traceability in Laboratory Medicine



PROGRAMME

10:00 Meeting inauguration
Academic Authorities

MORNING SESSION

Chairpersons: D. Caruso (Italy), A. Mosca (Italy)

10:30 **Criteria for assignment of reference method values**
L. Thienpont (Belgium)

11:00 **Guide to the evaluation of commutability of control materials**
F. Ceriotti (Italy)

11:30 **Performance specifications in EQAS**
M. Panteghini (Italy)

12:00 **Uncertainty vs. total error in judging performance of participants**
S. Sandberg (Norway)

12:30 Discussion

13:00 Break

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairpersons: F. Ceriotti (Italy), S. Sandberg (Norway)

14:00 **The Dutch experience**
M.H.M. Thelen (Netherlands)

14:30 **The Czech experience**
J. Kratochvíla, B. Friedecký (Czech Republic)

15:00 **The SIBioC experience**
A. Mosca (Italy)

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Final remarks
M. Panteghini (Italy)

SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS

D. Caruso
Centre for Metrological Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (CIRME), University of Milano, Italy

F. Ceriotti
Clinical Laboratory Service, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy

B. Friedecký
SEKK Pardubice, EQA Division, Czech Republic

J. Kratochvíla
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A. Mosca
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M. Panteghini
Centre for Metrological Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (CIRME), University of Milano, Italy

S. Sandberg
Norwegian Quality Improvement of Primary Care Laboratories (NOKLUS), and SKUP, Norwegian Porphyria Centre (NAPOS), Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway

M.H.M. Thelen
Dutch Foundation for Quality Assessment in Medical Laboratory Diagnostics (SKML), Nijmegen, Netherlands

L. Thienpont
Laboratory for Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Ghent, Belgium

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CONFERENCE VENUE

Aula Magna - Settore Didattico Colombo
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy
Via L. Mangiagalli 25, Milano

REGISTRATION FEE € 150,00

(VAT 22% NOT included)
▶ Special fee for students (including post-graduates)
€ 30,00 (VAT 22% included)
(a document certifying the position is requested)

For further information and registration: www.mzcongressi.com/index/eventi

8th Croatian National Congress Draws Regional Experts

The 8th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) is the national congress with international participation organized every three years. It represents the most important scientific and professional event for laboratory medicine in Croatia and this year the 8th CSMBLM Congress was held in Rijeka, Croatia, from September 22 to 26. The significance of the event was recognized by many participants from Croatia and neighboring countries such as Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Italy, Montenegro and also by Turkey and South African Republic.

The Congress opening ceremony reflected on the past and current activities of clinical chemists in Croatia and Europe. A keynote address given by Arijana Mestrovic, PhD, on competency development in biomedicine introduced all the participants and guests to the comprehensive content of the Congress program. This reminder on professional competencies that each clinical chemist should acquire was supported by the rich and fruitful biography of Prof. Elizabeta Topic who was awarded with the CSMBLM Life achievement award. Her career is a successful combination of professional and scientific achievements which made Prof. Topic a world-renowned expert in the field.

During the four days of the Congress, participants had the opportunity to hear the latest news in various fields of laboratory medicine delivered by the most influential domestic and foreign professionals in field. Scientific program of the Congress was

structured according to the most relevant topics such as preanalytical phase, harmonization, biostatistics, tumor diagnostics, hematology and coagulation, laboratory diagnostics of kidney disease, molecular diagnostics, quality management and automatization. Plenary lecturers highlighted some of these topics, Prof. Mauro Panteghini talked about global harmonization in laboratory medicine, Prof. Mario Plebani gave a lecture on state-of-the-art in quality indicators and Anna Carobene, PhD pointed out the relevancy of biological variation. More than 30 lectures and poster oral presentations are available at the Congress web site (<http://kongresrijeka2015.hdmblm.hr/index.php/en/program-1/congress-lectures>).

The Scientific program was nicely complemented with 80 poster abstracts authored by Croatian but also foreign authors. CSMBLM awarded 6 poster authors with grant for participation at the Congress. All abstracts are already available on line as a supplement of the *Biochemia Medica*, the official journal of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (<http://www.biochemia-medica.com/node/703>).

The 8th CSMBLM Congress gave also an opportunity to more than 100 participants from IVD companies to present their work to congress participants through seven industry sponsored workshops and 26 exhibition booths.

The official part of the Congress ended each day with various social events so all participants could enjoy their time in the city of Rijeka, relax



Photo: Congress cocktail party after Opening ceremony (from left to the right): Koralka Mittel, President of the Organizing Committee; Prof. Lidija Bilic-Zulle, President of the Scientific Committee; Prof. Elizabeta Topic, Past President of the CSMBLM, awarded with CSMBLM Life Achievement Award; Prof. Daria Pasalic, Vice President of the CSMBLM).

and prepare for the next day. Participants evaluated the Congress by filling the survey on participants' satisfaction and according to the overall grade and generous comments the 8th CSMBLM Congress was a great

success. Joyful closing ceremony of the Congress and useful comments from the participants will certainly serve as basis for an even more successful 9th CSMBLM Congress in 2018.



Photo: Congress Organizing Committee with President of the Scientific committee and student volunteers.



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TURBILATEX AUTOMATABLE

Hall 1 A-12

In Memoriam: Prof. Joel Corberand



Prof. Joel Corberand passed away last August 14, at the age of 72 years. Joel Corberand obtained his doctorate in Medicine in Toulouse in 1972 and was named Professor in 1992. As Clinical Chemist, he assured the duties of head of laboratory of hematology service of the Rangueil hospital from 1992. He was closely connected to the Laboratory of Hematology in Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) of Toulouse well beyond retirement in 2011. During his professional life, Prof. Corberand was particularly involved in continuous education, especially by e-learning. It must be mentioned that during these last years he has been deeply involved in the European Network for Rare and Congenital Anaemias (ENERCA) where he participated as outstanding partner and dedicated leader for the Continuing education by e-learning in hematology (e-HEMATimage program).

Prof. Corberand was a founder member of the EFLM Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medi-

cine. He was an enthusiastic member, conducting a through survey of the French professions view on providing results directly to patients; these data have been included in the WG's publication on this topic appeared in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine this year. Unfortunately, his health deteriorated as the manuscript was preparing, so he could not see the final version of the article. For those interested, the paper (Watson et al. European views on patients directly obtaining their laboratory test results. CCLM 2015 doi 10.1515/cclm-2015-0056) is freely downloadable from the EFLM website. The EFLM president and all the EFLM officers express their sincere condolence to his family, friends, and colleagues and to the people who had the pleasure to collaborate with him and had the opportunity to appreciate his competence and passion for our discipline.

EFLM's Next E-Seminar Scheduled for November 10

The EFLM Working Group on Distance Education and e-Learning (WG-DE) of the EFLM Committee Education and Training (C-ET) is happy to announce that the next e-seminar will be presented by Prof. Kjell Grankvist, member of the EFLM Working Group on Preanalytical phase on 10th November at h 18 (CET). Prof. Grankvist will talk about management of the quality in the preanalytical phase and will introduce the phlebotomy practice guidelines.

Additional education material together with e-seminar recording will be available on EFLM website in the e-learning section after the seminar. Only the online participation however allows the attendees to interact with the presenter, asking questions and obtaining answers.

Information on how to register and to access the e-seminar will be available in due time on EFLM website in the News section. It should not be forgotten that EFLM offers this educational opportunity free of charge.

If you wish to keep updated with this and other EFLM activities, please join the EFLM circulation list from the EFLM home page at www.eflm.eu.

Website Updates List of EFLM Publications

by MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communication Committee; and Francesca Tosato, Chair of the EFLM WG on Promotion and Publications

The Communication Committee is happy to inform that the EFLM website page listing the publications produced by the EFLM functional units has been recently updated.

To facilitate the consultation, the page has been divided into seven different sections according to the following topics: Education, Training and Professional Registration; Guidelines & Recommendations; Position & Opinion Paper; Reviews & Surveys; Laboratory Management, Staffing and Professional Practice; Quality Management and Laboratory Accreditation; Standardization & Harmonization of Clinical Laboratories.

By simply clicking each section, you will be redirected to the related papers list where you can also download the PDF file of each article. Papers are listed in chronological order. If you are looking for a specific paper, you can easily retrieve it in the PDF file containing the full list of papers, available under "Papers retrieval." The file includes the article references (Title, Authors, Journal, Year, Volume, and Pages) and the key words as well.

We would like to thank Silvia Cattaneo from the EFLM office, the members of the Working Group Promotion & Publications and Merve Sibel Gungoren in particular for the great job done.

4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress



European Union of Medical Specialists
Section of Laboratory Medicine/Medical Biopathology

„Laboratory medicine at the clinical interface“

www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu

WARSAW

September 21-24th 2016

Venue: Double Tree by Hilton, Warsaw

Important dates:

Early bird registration: June 15th 2016

On-line registration deadline: July 30th 2016

Abstract submission deadline: April 30th 2016

Under the auspices of:



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ACBICON 2015

42nd National Conference of
Association of Clinical Biochemists of India

November 26 - 28, 2015

Pre Conference Workshop

November 25, 2015, PGIMER, Chandigarh

Theme

Modern Age Clinical Biochemistry:
A New Era in Translational Medicine

www.acbicon2015.com