

## New EFLM Newsletter Editor

by MariaStella Graziani, Chair EFLM Communication Committee

**A** warm welcome to Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa as new EFLM Newsletter Editor of our corner! Harjit Pal Bhattoa, MD, PhD, EuSpLM, is a specialist in Laboratory Medicine and Head of the Endocrinology Unit at the Department of Laboratory Medicine in the University of Debrecen, Hungary. His main research interest is the skeletal and extra-skeletal effects of vitamin D with numerous publications on the topic. He is presently the assistant editor of the electronic journal of the IFCC (eJIFCC), member of the Hungarian LabTestsOnline working group and is the past scientific editor of the weekly electronic newsletter of the Hungarian Society of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis.

We believe that Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa's important experience in the field will be of great help for the promotion of EFLM activity and wish him a long and profitable collaboration with EFLM.



Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa

## Walter Guder Preanalytical Award Presented by EFLM and Sponsored by BD

by Prof. Mauro Panteghini EFLM President

**T**he EFLM Walter Guder Preanalytical Science Award will be granted to a young scientist for significant contribution to the improvement of the preanalytical phase. EFLM is very pleased to have partnered with BD on this award, through which we intend to achieve wider recognition of the importance of high quality research in the field of the preanalytical phase among laboratory professionals in Europe.

**Eligibility criteria:** The applicant must fulfill the following criteria: Age under 40 years; Member of an EFLM member country; Study accepted for peer-reviewed publication by the submission deadline in which the nominee must be the first author.

**Award timing:** The EFLM Walter Guder Preanalytical Science Award is awarded biannually. This year, the award will be presented at the 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress "Laboratory Medicine at the clinical interface" to be held in Warsaw (PL) on September 21–24, 2016.

**Award details:** The selected young scientist will receive an award of EUR 5,000 and the costs for attending the 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress (economy class travel, reasonable accommodation and the meeting registration fee).

**Submission details:** The applicants should send the reprint of their article or a copy of the editor's letter indicating final acceptance for publication to the EFLM office at [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu). Articles must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2016. Entries must be published in English in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Applicants should also send a statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry. Submissions will be judged by an independent panel of experts. The nominee must be the first author and a member of an EFLM member society. The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her coauthors.

- Applications deadline: April 30, 2016
- Winner will be notified: May 31, 2016

For further information on the submission process please contact the Chair of the EFLM WG-Preanalytical Phase, Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic: [am.simundic@gmail.com](mailto:am.simundic@gmail.com)

## EFLM Bursary Program for Attending EFLM-UEMS Congress in Warsaw

**T**his is to inform you that EFLM is promoting a bursary program for young scientists attending the 4th joint EFLM-UEMS Congress to be held on September 21–24, 2016, in Warsaw [www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu/](http://www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu/)

The bursaries will cover the cost of the travel, 3-night accommodation and registration fee for a maximum of EUR 1,000. EFLM Bursary recipients will also receive a free on-line yearly subscription to the journal *CCLM* kindly offered by Walter de Gruyter.

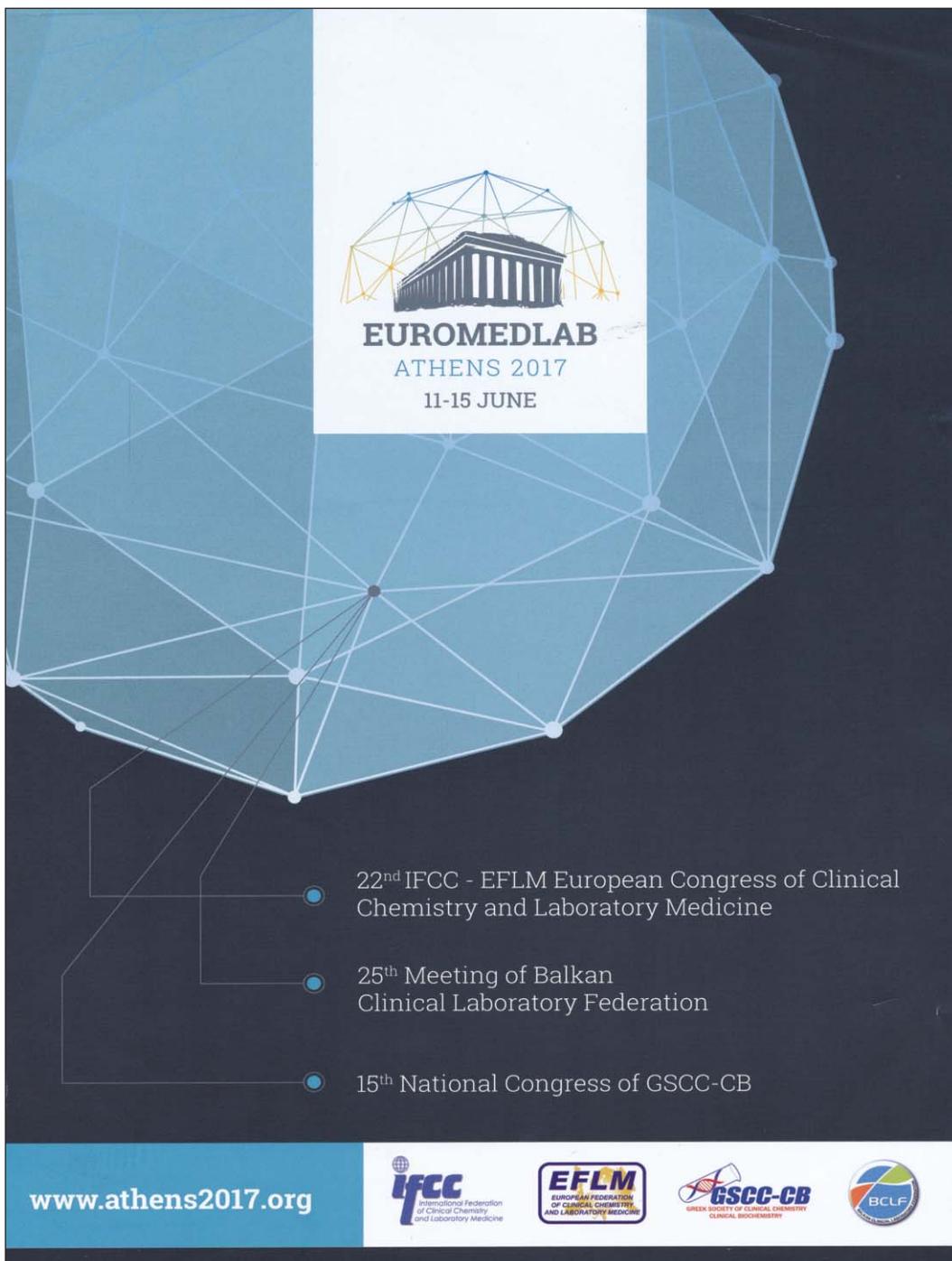
Eligible candidates must come from an EFLM Member Society and meet the following criteria:

- Young participants (≤35 years at the date of the conference);
- Having a poster abstract accepted as First Author (deadline for abstract submission May 15, 2016).

Applications must be submitted through the proper application form (downloadable from <http://eflm.eu/index.php/EFLM-bursaries.html>) and accompanied by the following documentation:

- Copy of the ID or passport;
- Document proving the membership to the National Society;
- Notification of poster acceptance (acceptance/rejection will be sent by the congress organizers within June 15, 2016).

Applications have to be sent to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu) by June 30, 2016.



**EUROMEDLAB  
ATHENS 2017  
11-15 JUNE**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC - EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
- 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation
- 15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of GSCC-CB

[www.athens2017.org](http://www.athens2017.org)






## EFLM Website Statistics

by Merve Sibel Güngören,  
EFLM Working Group – Promotion & Publications

EFLM is using a real-time logfile analyzer (AWStats) to get information about the use of EFLM web site (eflm.eu). Our aim is to understand which data our visitors are looking for in our re-designed web site in order to improve the site according to our visitors' demands. We have been keeping the records of the web statistics since October 2015.

The main data (average of 5 months) are listed in the tables shown below.

With around 80 single visitors per day from a number of different Countries, it can be affirmed that the site is of interest for our professional community in Europe and all around the world. Visitors are mostly from China. This is an interesting data: the most likely explanation is that Chinese institutions systematically scan the Internet.

We understand that the Educational material EFLM makes freely available and the EFLM publications that are downloadable free of charge are rather attractive for our visitors; EFLM is proud to offer such a variety of tools (papers, slides, presentations) to the clinical laboratory personnel to keep them updated with the most relevant recommendations and scientific findings in the field.

The list of the forthcoming events is also of interest: the number and the quality of Congresses and Meetings organized by EFLM (or under the EFLM auspices) in Europe are relevant for the profession and are no doubt of great help for the continuing professional development.

The most downloaded files are the EFLM Newsletter that contains information and news about the EFLM and the members National Societies activities.

The most downloaded scientific papers (see table) are two papers from joint Groups between EFLM and other Scientific Societies (with the

# of visits per month	# of single visitors per month	# of visited pages per month	# of visits per visitor	# of pages per visit
5431	2306	14574	2.36	2.86

Most visited pages	Country of visitors	Most downloaded scientific papers
Main page (4640 times)	China (2374 visitors)	EFLM-ESPT joint WG-PLM. Implementation of a companion diagnostic in the clinical laboratory: The BRAF example in melanoma. Clin Chim Acta 2015 (1121 times)
Educational material (910 times)	USA (1851 visitors)	EFLM WG-PRE. Preanalytical quality improvement. In pursuit of harmony, on behalf of EFLM Working group for Preanalytical Phase. CCLM 2014 (1020 times)
Forthcoming events (402 times)	Italy (1148 visitors)	EFLM WG-PRE. Compliance of blood sampling procedures with the CLSI H3-A6 guidelines: An observational study by the EFLM WG-PRE. CCLM 2014 (876 times)
EFLM publications (389 times)	Spain (627 visitors)	Ferraro S, Braga F, Panteghini M. Laboratory medicine in the new healthcare environment. CCLM 2015 (628 times)
EFLM Corner (301 times)	Germany (592 visitors)	EFLM WG-POST and EQALM. An international study of how laboratories handle and evaluate patient samples after detecting an unexpected APTT prolongation. CCLM 2015 (500 times)

European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics (ESPT) and with the European Organization for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM); also two papers from the EFLM Working Group for the preanalytical phase attracted the attention of our visitors. The interests in these specific papers is a confirmation of the scientific success derived from the strict collaboration between EFLM and other Scientific Societies that guarantees mutual benefits; this kind of cooperation is therefore to be continued together with intense collaboration with other societies. Furthermore, the attention paid to the papers from the EFLM WG on preanalytical phase is a recognition of the pivotal activity of this EFLM group in this specific topic in Europe.

Apart from China, the two sites from where our visitors are mainly redirected from are the web sites of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (hdmbim.hr/hr) and the web site of the scientific journal *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine* (degruyter.com/view/j/cclm). A possible explanation is the close vicinity of the Croatian Society to EFLM due to the role of the President of the Croatian Society, Prof. A.M. Simundic as EFLM Executive Board Secretary and to the strict collaborations of the EFLM with the journal that is recognized as the official journal of the Federation.

We take this opportunity to remind our readers that the address of our new site is [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu); temporarily the old link [www.efclm.eu](http://www.efclm.eu) is redirected to the new site, the old link shall become unavailable in the near future.

We encourage the EFLM corner readership to send us (using the contact form of the site) their opinion and suggestions on how to improve the site and what they would like to see on the site: we are looking forward to hearing from you soon!

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## What's up in ATHENS 2017?

By Dr. Alexander Haliassos, President of the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Congress

The Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB), the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), is organizing the 22nd IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine "EuroMedLab Athens 2017" on June 11-15, 2017, at Megaron - the Athens Congress Center. This European Event is co-organized along with the 25th Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) meeting and the 15th National Congress of GSCC-CB. The main goal is to develop a coherent common approach and vision, fruitful exchanges of opinions between the Greek, the European and the International colleagues.

The EuroMedLab Athens 2017 program includes plenary lecture, cutting-edge symposia, and workshops offering in depth coverage of a broad range of topics integrating emerging science in clinical practice. The participants will come across with several innovations.

The first one is the "debate" symposia where the "pros" and "cons" in controversial areas of Laboratory

Medicine will be discussed by leading experts with corresponding opinions. These symposia will be open to general public and press by free on-line registration. The subjects that these symposia will cover are "lessons from 30 years of cancer screening," "the ethical problems of gene editing," "direct to consumer testing" and "can we afford the increasing costs in health care?" One open symposium will be organized each day of the congress.

The second one concerns mostly the young scientists, but participation is not restricted only to them. It is called "meet the expert." We plan to organize these sessions in collaboration with the IFCC task force for the young scientists. Each day of the congress leading experts in various fields of Laboratory Medicine will be available to participants for "in-depth analysis" and "case-studies presentations." These short presentations will be followed by discussion with the audience. Pre-registration (at no extra cost) will be needed in order to participate to these sessions.

The main program of the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 congress is now complete and the preliminary program of the congress will be published by the end of June 2016.

Plenaries are going to be presented by leading scientists, will bring the audience up-to-day with the latest advances in clinical and laboratory research and are scheduled to open each day of the congress.

Twenty-four symposia will be organized during EuroMedLab Athens 2017 congress that cover a great number of fundamental topics of laboratory medicine. Four of them will be organized directly by IFCC, three by EFLM and one by BCLF. The sixteen symposia that will be organized by the scientific program committee (SPC) will include three invited expert speakers on the subject and two oral presentations selected from the submitted abstracts.

The Educational Workshops will be organized with the active support of IVD Industry, and they will be reviewed by the SPC, in order to be fully integrated in to the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Congress. Their titles and speakers will be announced during November 2016.

Four satellite meetings will also be organized before and after the main congress in collaboration with other Greek or international Scientific Societies. They will cover areas such as Bone Metabolism and Vitamin D, Diabetes, Inborn Errors of Metabolism and Enzymology.

Every two years, EuroMedLab becomes an even more international event attracting Specialists in Labo-

ratory Medicine and the IVD industry representatives from Europe as well as from across the globe. The Expo is of the largest one in Europe. It is an opportunity for the industry to showcase and market new products and equipment. In Athens several thousand square meters will be allocated in order that the latest innovations in the field of the clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, cell counting, immunochemistry, and several other will be exhibited. Many Industry Sponsored Workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also for exchange of good practice.

Athens, a city famous all over the world for its history and culture, has many places of interest within a relatively small area surrounding the city center (Syntagma Square) and in walking distance from the congress venue. The downtown Congress Center is also conveniently situated nearby to the districts of Plaka and Monastiraki (old town) as well as Kolonaki (shopping and museums area and night life district). Acropolis, the New Museum and charming historic quarters with restored 19th century neoclassical homes, picturesque pedestrian streets, shops and restaurants, and ancient monuments from classic and Roman era will offer you unforgettable memories to take home.

We are looking forward to welcome you in Athens 2017!

### Invitation: 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface" Warsaw, September 21-24, 2016

The Fourth Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress in Warsaw is the largest European event in Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Diagnostics in 2016. More than 50 international experts in the field of clinical medicine and laboratory diagnostics will present state of the art lectures and more than 700 participants, both laboratory professionals and clinicians, from all over the world are expected. The Congress program includes scientific symposia, plenary lectures, poster sessions, debates, and educational workshops. Congress topics are selected to address hot topics of medicine, in areas such as cardiology, oncology, nephrology, neurology, endocrinology, transplantation, immunology, microbiology, pediatrics, among others. Laboratory diagnostics at the clinical interface spans from next generation sequencing, assessment of cell free DNA, mass spectrometry, to point-of-care testing for diagnosing and predicting disease as well as for guiding and monitoring therapy.

The organizers particularly encourage young physicians, laboratory professionals, scientists, and researchers to submit their work. All abstracts will be reviewed by an international evaluation committee and the best abstracts will be selected as oral presentations. There are reduced registration fees for all young scientists <35 years and travel bursaries are available to participate in the Congress.

Industry sponsored workshops will give the diagnostic industry the opportunity to present their latest innovations to a specialist audience.

Don't miss this important event in the beautiful Warsaw. We look forward to seeing you in Warsaw this September! Key dates: Abstract submission: May 15; Early registration: June 30. [www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu](http://www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu)

by Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (EFLM, PTDL) President of the Congress and Organizing Committee Chair; Prof. Eberhard Wieland (UEMS) Scientific Program Committee Chair

