

FOREWORD

This current issue of the EFLM News Corner presents a summary of a fruitful meeting of the British Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Warwick, UK. Paul Newland, Director of Publications and Communications & Company Secretary (ACB), highlights the most exciting moments at the Focus, 2016 in his report. Daniel Rajdl, Chair of the EFLM WG Distance Education and e-Learning, introduces the face-lifted new e-learning pages of the EFLM with a simple guide to access the different webinars. Additionally the upcoming webinars are also indicated. Please mark your calendar! MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communication Committee summarizes the papers published as far this year. It is an important summary and provides the reader with the important issues at a glance. Additionally she also announces the approved EFLM Strategic plan for the years 2016-2017. Merve Sibel Güngören, EFLM Working Group-Promotion & Publications, gives a summary of the EFLM Website Statistics for the period of January-July, 2016. It is interesting to note the growing popularity of the website with a very impressive number of visitors.

Harjit Pal Bhattoa, MD, PhD, EuSpLM

Focus 2016, British Society's Annual Meeting, Held in Warwick

by Paul Newland, Director of Publications and Communications & Company Secretary, The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) was held on May 2016 in Warwick, the city of the famous Warwick castle and on the doorstep of Shakespeare's birth place.

As always the event was preceded by the trainees' day, and this proved a useful and interesting day for our trainees. The following day, Focus 2016 was opened by the ACB President, Dr Gwyn McCreanor, and this together with the opening Foundation Award set the tone for the whole of the meeting. Professor Sattar gave us a superb review of novel insights into cardio metabolic diseases.

For the first time at Focus, members had access to a mobile app, this meant that after each session, members and guests could rate the presentations and not surprisingly Professor Sattar's lecture scored high, with comments such as "highly relevant", "great speaker", "really funny and engaging speaker". Importantly this got the science in the conference off to a fantastic start

What is important and the cornerstone for Focus meetings was the variety of sessions, you could mix and match and chose to attend broad ranging sessions each day, from sessions on education and training to molecular medicine. We were privileged to hear Professor Sir Stephen Bloom speak on Gut Hormones to treat diabetes. There were parallel sessions each day on topics such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Cancer, pre analytics, case studies and FiLM @Focus sessions exploring international perspective on Pathology delivery, and the implications for Pathology of Lord Carter's review of productivity and efficiency.

The ACB awards are an opportunity for specialists in training in laboratory medicine to showcase their work, and yet again this was a great session. The standard of presentation was exceptionally high and the scientific work being undertaken by our more junior members is of the highest quality.

Warwick was an excellent venue in supporting the success of the exhibition. It was a compact and therefore an intimate venue that allowed members and guest to visit our corporate partners, enabling them to share their new products or discuss what exciting products or assays are on the way.

It is fair to say that Focus 2016 was a huge success and carried the ACB tradition of providing members and guests with a scientific programme of the highest standard, coupled with a great opportunity to socialise with old and new friends alike.

Focus 2017 is the next annual scientific meeting for the ACB which will be held in Leeds, the city of vibrant music and art culture.

Laboratory personnel are primary dedicated to improving patient outcomes. Don't miss the opportunity to attend the upcoming course dedicated to the topic and delivered by distinguished keynote speakers in Leiden, The Netherlands.



A course developed by the EFLM Working Group on Test Evaluation on the progress of medical tests improving patient outcomes for laboratory professionals, clinicians, biomarker researchers and healthcare companies



Developing medical tests that improve patient outcomes

Leiden (NL), 9-10-11 November 2016

Secure your space at a Course delivered by the EFLM Test Evaluation Working Group!

Keynote Speakers: Rita Horvath, Patrick Bossuyt, Sverre Sandberg, Sally Lord, Phillip J Monaghan, and others

Developing medical tests that improve patient outcomes

9-11 November, 2016, Leiden, Netherlands

Laboratory medicine has a poor record bringing new tests to market in a timely and effective way. Evidence based laboratory medicine (EBLM) provides the underlying principles for how a new biomarker should go through the test evaluation process but these principles alone do not appear to have guided better evaluation. This course aims to address that gap by extending the principles of EBLM to provide some practical tools for the key processes of test evaluation.

Key Features of 2½ day course:

The course will be interactive and talks by keynote speakers will be followed by practical assignments.

- Test evaluation – definitions and basic concepts
- Tools to conduct test evaluation including:
 - identifying unmet needs for biomarkers,
 - clinical pathway mapping to define the role and purpose of biomarkers in changing outcomes,
 - determination of analytical and clinical performance characteristics of biomarkers,
 - assessing the clinical effectiveness of biomarkers.
- Talks to highlight the differing perspectives and experience of key stakeholders and experts in test evaluation
- Practical assignments to understand the use of test evaluation tools.

Target Audience:

- Qualified laboratory professionals
- Researchers involved in biomarker development and test evaluation
- Clinicians involved in biomarker use and evaluation in clinical practice
- Healthcare company and regulatory representatives

For further information, visit the course website at: www.eflm-test-evaluation-course.eu



EFLM thanks the following companies for the kind and unconditional support (preliminary list):



ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS (gold sponsor)



Abbott Diagnostics

EFLM Website Statistics: January-July 2016

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

As our readers already know, EFLM is using a real-time logfile analyzer (AWStats) to get information about the use of EFLM website (www.eflm.eu). Website analytic data have been collected since October 2015. Grouped in the tables below you can find the main data obtained between January and June 2016 (average per month). Previously, 5-month data (Oct 15 – Feb 16) were published in the April issue of EFLM Corner.

We did not observe any significant difference among the months. Every day, 82 single visitors on average from all over the world visit approximately 500 webpages of eflm.eu. In the first semester of 2016, visitors were mainly from Italy, USA and China.

Besides the main page, the most visited page is the list of the forthcoming events. Apparently, the EFLM scientific activity (including the events under the EFLM auspices) is of great interest for many Laboratory Medicine professionals all over the Europe and beyond. EFLM is therefore encouraged in organising scientific meeting of high level to continue attracting the interest of an elevated number of colleagues.

Among the most downloaded papers, two are from the EFLM WG on Preanalytical phase (901 and 368 times in six months): this confirms the validity of the

work the WG is carrying on in this relevant phase of the clinical laboratory workflow. The second most downloaded paper (858 times) is an educational paper from the Committee on Education and Training; the paper provides insights into how to validate the laboratory assays and to assess the quality of methods. The list of the most downloaded five files, includes two presentations from the Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine; the elevated number of downloads (830 and 658 times) attests the interest in this long-lasting Course, aimed to offer continuing professional development to the attendees. The attention paid by the EFLM site visitors to this kind of papers encourages the Federation and its Working Groups to go on with educational activities mainly dedicated to the harmonisation of the different aspects of the total testing process in Clinical Laboratories.

Table: EFLM web site statistics; the figures (average per month) refer to the January-June 2016 period

Visits	Single visitors	Visited pages	Visits per visitor	Pages per visit
4631	2467	15031	1.88	3.27

Most visited pages	Country of visitors	Most downloaded files
Forthcoming events	Italy	Simundic AM, et al. Compliance of blood sampling procedures with the CLSI H3-A6 guidelines: An observational study by EFLM Working Group for the preanalytical phase. <i>Clin Chem Lab Med</i> 2015;53:1321-31 (901 times)
EFLM publications	USA	Topic E, et al. How to assess the quality of your analytical method? EFLM Committee on Education & Training. <i>Clin Chem Lab Med</i> 2015;53:1707-18 (858 times)
E-learning	China	Theodorsson E. Limit of detection, limit of quantification and limit of blank. EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Zagreb, October 2015. (830 times)
EFLM corner	Germany	Westgard S. Biological Variation-The ultimate context for test results. EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Zagreb, October 2015. (658 times)
News from EFLM	Spain	Simundic AM, et al. Colour coding for blood collection tube closures – a call for harmonisation. EFLM Working Group for the preanalytical phase. <i>Clin Chem Lab Med</i> 2015;53:1321-31 (368 times)

Stay updated and keep visiting eflm.eu periodically! 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!

EFLM Strategic Plan for 2016-2017 Announced

by MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communication Committee

The EFLM Executive Board is delighted to announce the issuing of the EFLM Strategic Plan for 2016-2017 (www.eflm.eu section Downloads).

The Plan has been approved by the EFLM National Societies and includes seven areas of action and eighteen strategic goals. All the EFLM functional units and the EFLM office are actively involved in the achievement of the goals that will be regularly monitored.

The two year plan is particularly addressed in the amelioration of the relationships between EFLM and IFCC and its Regional Federations (goal n 4 and 16), UEMS (goal n 13), and its National Societies as well (goal n 12 and 15).

Another pivotal goal is the organisation of the 2nd Strategic Conference.

The EFLM Executive Board thanks all National Societies and EFLM Committee Chairs who contributed with ideas and expectations to the editing of the plan.

EFLM e-Learning Activities Have A More Appealing Interface

by Daniel Rajdl, Chair of the EFLM WG
Distance Education and e-Learning (WG-DE)

EFLM e-learning activities have recently based on free webinars on “most wanted” topics in Laboratory Medicine. In addition to live webinars, EFLM WD-DE provides processed recordings of these webinars. A recent rearrangement of the main EFLM e-learning page has been set up.

“We tried to simplify the access to the available information for EFLM website users”, says Ralph Lichtinghagen, chair of Education and Training Committee. “I do hope that the easy accessibility of the recordings with table of contents could be appreciated by EFLM website visitors. The recordings allow to easily reviewing just parts of the presentation one is interested in”, he adds.

Incoming webinars:

- Critical Values (October 2016)
- Heart failure (November 2016)
- Case reports in Hematology (December 2016)
- Biological variation (May 2017)

EFLM Publications in 2016

by MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communication Committee

Twelve papers have been published by EFLM functional units up to now this year; please find below the list. The papers are freely downloadable at the dedicated page of the EFLM website (www.eflm.eu/index.php/eflm-publications.html)

Guidelines & Recommendations

- Fasting is not routinely required for determination of a lipid profile: clinical and laboratory implications including flagging at desirable concentration cut-points - a joint consensus statement from the European Atherosclerosis Society and European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. *Nordstgaard BG, Langsted A, Mora S, Kolovou G, Baum H, Bruckert E, et al. Eur Heart J; 2016;37:1944-58*

A pivotal consensus, evidence-based document on the possibility to avoid fasting when determining a lipid profile. The document also contains precious indications on laboratory reports for lipids and lipoproteins.

Positions & Opinion Papers

- Order of blood draw: Opinion Paper by the European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Working Group for the Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE). *Cornes M, van Dongen-Lases E, Grankvist K, Ibarz M, Kristensen G, Lippi G, et al. Working Group for Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE), European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Clin Chem Lab Med. 2016 doi: 10.1515/cclm-2016-0426.*

In this opinion paper, EFLM WG-PRE supports the continued recommendation of ensuring a correct order of draw for venous blood collection to prevent sample contamination that could cause erroneous results.

- Biomarker development targeting unmet clinical needs. *Monaghan P, Lord SJ, St John A, Sandberg S, Cobbaert CM, Lennartz L, et al for the EFLM Working Group on Test Evaluation. Clin Chim Acta 2016;460:211-9*

The checklist elaborated by the Working Group intends to achieve more efficient biomarker development and translation into practice.

- Criteria for assigning laboratory measurands to

models for analytical performance specifications defined in the 1st EFLM Strategic Conference. *Ceriotti F, Fernandez-Calle P, Klee GG, Nordin G, Sandberg S, Streichert T, et al. on behalf of the EFLM Task and Finish Group on allocation of laboratory tests to different models for performance specifications (TFG-DM). Clin Chem Lab Med 2016 DOI 10.1515/cclm-2016-0091*

Following the 1st EFLM Strategic Conference on quality specification, this report lists a number of laboratory tests under the most appropriate model for analytical performance specifications (APS). Cardiac troponins, glucose, HbA1c, cholesterol are allocated under model 1 (APS based on clinical outcomes); electrolytes, minerals and creatinine are allocated under model 2 (APS based on biological variation).

- Patient identification and tube labelling – a call for harmonisation. *van Dongen-Lases E, Cornes MP, Grankvist K, Mercedes Ibarz M, Kristensen GBB, Lippi G, et al. on behalf of the Working Group for Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE), European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Clin Chem Lab Med 2016;54:1141-5.*

This position paper raises awareness and provides recommendations for proper patient and sample identification procedures that are amongst the most critical steps in blood collection procedures that jeopardise the patient safety.

- EFLM WG-Preanalytical phase opinion paper: local validation of blood collection tubes in clinical laboratories. *Lippi G, Cornes MP, Grankvist K, Nybo M, Simundic AM. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016;54:755-60.*

This consensus document provides a set of essential requisites, technical criteria and clinical issues for supporting laboratory professionals in organization blood collection tubes tenders and validating new devices before local routine implementation.

- Laboratory medicine in the new healthcare environment. *Ferraro S, Braga F, Panteghini M. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016;54:523-33*

The paper examines the role of laboratory medicine in the 21st century and points out how the awareness of the importance of clinical laboratories in the healthcare system should be reinforced.

Reviews & Surveys

- How well do laboratories adhere to recommended clinical guidelines for the management of myocardial infarction: the CARDiac MARKer Guidelines uptake in Europe study (CARMAGUE). *Collinson P, Hammerer-Lercher A, Suvisaari J, Apple FS, Christenson RH, Pulkki K, et al on behalf of the EFLM Working Group for Cardiac Markers. Clin Chem 2016; 62:1264-71*

The paper presents the results of a questionnaire about the use of cardiac biomarkers in Europe and North America: significant differences are observed due to assay availability and different laboratory practices.

- Is D-dimer used according to clinical algorithms in the diagnostic work-up of patients with suspicion of venous thromboembolism? A study in six European countries. *Kristoffersen AH, Ajzner E, Rogic D, Sozmen EY, Carraro P, Faria AP, et al. for the joint EFLM-EQALM Working Group on Postanalytical Phase (WG-POST). Thromb Res 2016;142:1-7*

The survey explores how patients suspected of having venous thromboembolism (VTE) are investigated: the D-dimer is correctly requested only by 66% of physicians. These results should encourage scientific societies to improve the dissemination and knowledge of the current recommendations for the diagnosis of VTE

- The role of European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Working Group for Preanalytical Phase in standardization and harmonization of the preanalytical phase in Europe. *Cornes MP, Church S, van Dongen-Lases E, Grankvist K, Guimaraes JT, Ibarz M, et al. Ann Clin Biochem 2016;53:539-47*

The paper illustrates the work performed by the Working Group in Europe: as a result of the discussions at the third conference on pre-analytical phase, five main areas of interest have been identified. These are: test ordering, sample transport and storage, patient preparation, sampling procedures and management of unsuitable specimens

Quality Management and Laboratory Accreditation

- Accreditation process in European countries - an EFLM survey. *Boursier G, Vukasovic I, Mesko Brguljan P, Lohmander M, Ghita I, Bernabeu Andreu FA, et al. on behalf of the Working Group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO) of the EFLM. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016;54:545-51*

The results of this survey on accreditation show that while there are several variations in the approaches to accreditation of medical laboratories in the European countries, the ISO 15189 accreditation project has been widely accepted. The use of a unique standard and the cooperation among countries due to scientific societies, EFLM, accreditation bodies and EA enable laboratory professionals to move toward uniform implementation of the accreditation concept.

Standardisation & Harmonisation in Clinical Laboratories

- Harmonization initiatives in Europe. *Ceriotti F. eJIFCC 2016;27:23-9*

The paper illustrates the different initiatives the EFLM Working Group on harmonization initiated this year. The first areas considered were the pre- and post analytical phase.

24th BCLF 2016

Tirana 5 - 7 October 2016



24th MEETING OF BALKAN CLINICAL LABORATORY FEDERATION
4th ALBANIAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

WWW.BCLF2016.ORG

