

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

April 2026
By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With the arrival of spring, I hope this season brings you renewed energy and continued satisfaction in your professional activities, as well as in your collaborations with IFCC colleagues around the world.

On March 16–17, the IFCC Executive Board (EB) met in person in Milan for the first time this year. During this meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming new EB members: President-Elect Nader Rifai, and two Regional Representatives, Tomáš Zima, representing the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), and Myrna Germanos, representing the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB).

During the meeting, EB members engaged in constructive discussions with the Chairs of the three IFCC Divisions (EMD, ETD, and CPD), as well as with the Chairs of more than ten Task Forces and Chairs of Awards and Accreditation Committees reporting directly to the EB. These exchanges were invaluable in understanding expectations, identifying current challenges, and exploring how the EB can further support their activities. These strategic discussions are essential for fostering dialogue, strengthening alignment with IFCC priorities, and ensuring effective and impactful collaboration.

A number of important and forward-looking topics were also addressed, contributing to the continued growth of IFCC and reinforcing the Board's commitment to supporting colleagues worldwide who work tirelessly to advance laboratory medicine.

As the IFCC Strategic Action Plan for the 2024–2026 term approaches its conclusion, the EB reviewed its outcomes and overall impact. This reflection reaffirmed our shared commitment to continuous improvement, enhanced collaboration, and the ongoing development of IFCC initiatives for the global laboratory medicine community.

March has also been a month rich in international engagements. I had the pleasure of attending the **XXXII Congress of the Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine (SANAC)**, held on March 12–14, 2026, in Cádiz, Spain. The congress focused on extravascular biomarkers in clinical laboratories. I delivered a keynote presentation entitled **"Seminal Cell-Free DNA Assessment as a Novel Prostate Cancer Biomarker,"** based on our research and publications.

I was also honored to be invited to attend the **23rd China Association of Clinical Laboratory Practice (CACLP 2026)**, held from March 21–23, 2026, at the Xiamen International Exhibition Center in Fujian, China. This major global event brought together over 45,000 participants, 1,350 exhibitors, and 20 scientific conferences covering key topics in laboratory



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medicine and in vitro diagnostics. As the IFCC President, I had the privilege of participating in the opening ceremony of CACLP alongside leading Chinese professionals. Events such as CACLP highlight the vital role of international scientific meetings in fostering knowledge exchange, learning, and professional networking.

During CACLP, I also had the honor of attending the symposium as an invited speaker "**Women's Holistic Health Management: Health for Her, for Her Whole Life,**" supported by SNIBE. I sincerely thank the organizers for this valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with leading experts in China's clinical and laboratory medicine community. This important academic event emphasized women's health which is an area central to global public health. From adolescence to older age, women experience unique physiological changes requiring accurate, standardized, and timely laboratory testing. Topics such as reproductive health, pregnancy risk assessment, postmenopausal disease prevention, and early cancer screening were explored in depth, offering valuable insights not only for China, but also for advancing global models of women's holistic health management.

It was also a great honor for me to present the opening lecture entitled "**Global Cooperation and Sharing the Best Practice in Laboratory Medicine: The IFCC View**" at the first **Global Masterclass "IVD Innovation Summit"**, held on March 22, 2026, during CACLP. This event was organized by the China Association of Clinical Laboratory Practice (CACLP), the China Association of In Vitro Diagnostics (CAIVD), and the China Professional Community of Experimental Medicine (CPCEM), with support from Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise. Under the theme "**Global IVD Innovation & Cross-Regional Integration,**" the Masterclass brought together international and Chinese experts to discuss emerging trends and shared challenges in laboratory medicine. The forum provided a valuable platform for strengthening global collaboration, promoting innovation, and advancing the integration of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics worldwide.

I was also pleased to attend several signing ceremonies representing **IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)** in March 2026 with Chinese companies "**Snibe, Wondfo, and Wantai BioPharm**" formalizing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to support the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN). On behalf of FEN, we are grateful to these IVD Companies and express our appreciation and thanks for their kind support for FEN and its projects in emerging nations. These agreements reflect the strengthening of our partnerships and our shared commitment to improving laboratory medicine globally. The FEN is dedicated to fundraising and supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality and accessibility of laboratory services, educational projects particularly in emerging countries. Further information is available on the Foundation's website: <http://www.ifccfoundation.org>.

It is my great pleasure to welcome the **Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (FEMPACML)** and the **Indian Association for Medical Updates (AMU)** as new IFCC Affiliate Members. I am also delighted to welcome **BioMérieux** as a new IFCC Corporate Member. These additions to IFCC Community reflect the continued growth and global reach of our organization, reinforcing IFCC's role as a leading global reference in laboratory medicine.

It is my great pleasure to invite you to register and participate in the **XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress**, to be held in **New Delhi from 25-29 October 2026**, one of the most influential global events in laboratory medicine.

WorldLab 2026, hosted in New Delhi by the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India, is expected to attract a large and highly engaged international audience, particularly from the Asia-Pacific region as well as from all five IFCC Regional Federations. The Congress will bring together laboratory professionals, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare decision-makers, providing an outstanding platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and global engagement.

I am also pleased to inform you that visa arrangements have been carefully organized and coordinated by MZ Events in close collaboration with local authorities, ensuring smooth participation for IVD companies, exhibitors, and all international attendees.

Please note that the deadline for abstract submission is **15 May 2026**, while reduced registration fees will be available until **15 July 2026**.

As in previous editions, WorldLab 2026 will host the **IFCC Young Scientist Forum**, with scholarships available to support early-career professionals. This initiative offers a unique opportunity for young scientists to engage with leading experts, exchange knowledge and expertise, and benefit from extensive networking within an international and multidisciplinary environment, including interactions with major industry representatives. Such events are invaluable opportunities to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and continue advancing our discipline while expanding professional horizons.

The IFCC Council Meeting will take place on **Sunday, 25 October 2026**, with the participation of Presidents and National Representatives from IFCC Full and Affiliate Member Societies, as well as Corporate Member Representatives. The IFCC Executive Board, together with the Chairs and Members of IFCC Functional Units, looks forward to meeting with Council Members to report on activities carried out since the previous Council Meeting/General Conference and to discuss expectations and emerging challenges in laboratory medicine.

With my best regards,
Tomris Ozben
IFCC President