

## EuroMedLab 2015 Serves as Venue for IFCC Young Scientist Forums

IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (IFCC-TFYS) conducted three successful sessions at EuroMedLab Paris 2015. These included one stand alone educational session, one social gathering/networking evening session (with EFLM YS's), and an open functional meeting. EuroMedLab congress organizers gave a great example by way of granting their support to a the series of YS events which offered exclusive time slots at this significant global event.

### **“Workforce Preparation: Invitation to Contribute”; Monday, June 22, 2015; 9.00 - 12.30**

The theme of this workshop/open functional meeting was “Workforce Preparation – Invitation to Contribute” where all the registered YS were invited from all over the world. The session which was conducted at the “Palais des Congrès”, was attended by 30 YS representing various regions. The session was moderated by Dr. Graham Beastall (Past President IFCC). As per the theme the session framework was defined so that YS were able to come forward and present their views in the form of five Power-Point slides describing themselves and challenges facing them and the support they expect from TFYS. This will enable TFYS to prioritize needs. The session started with Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla (Chair IFCC-TFYS) describing the overview and functionality of TFYS, report on past events and future programs, an important example being “Why we need to join TFYS.” There were presentations by 7 YS followed by discussion. The important common points selected for discussion were: *Communication, Education and training, Research & the Future of Laboratory Medicine*. The detailed report based on these views and a presentation prepared by Dr. Graham Beastall can be found online, at [www.ifcc.org/task-force-young-scientists-web-pages/ystf\\_upcomingactivities/](http://www.ifcc.org/task-force-young-scientists-web-pages/ystf_upcomingactivities/).

### **Symposium: “Collaborating Industry with Research & Laboratory: Two Sides of the Same Coin – HAVE YOUR SAY”; Tuesday, June 23, 2015; 12:30–14:30**

This session was conducted with joint efforts and contribution from IFCC-TFYS and EFLM at the “Palais des Congrès” and attended by 40 YS from around the world.

Universities and industry have been collaborating for over a century. When companies and universities work in tandem to push the frontiers of knowledge, they become a powerful engine for innovation and economic growth. These successful collaborations have been seen as a long-term benefit to these institutions in terms of: substantial streams of external funding, enhanced opportunities for Faculty and Graduates to work on groundbreaking research, vital inputs to keep teaching and learning on the cutting edge of a

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## IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TFYS) at EuroMedLab Paris 2015

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discipline, and the impact of delivering solutions for pressing global challenges. The session discussed key questions for successful partnership and to prevent failures.

The session was opened with a welcome address by Dr. Graham Beastall (past president IFCC), Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla (chair IFCC-TFYS) & Dr. Guilaine Boursier (core member IFCC-TFYS). The first session was chaired by Dr. Graham Beastall. Dr. Damien Gruson (consultant IFCC-TFYS) spoke on "Funding Mechanisms for Research – Developing New Structures or Restructuring the Existing Ones" with Industry personnel. The initiative was unique as both university and industry people gave their views on funding mechanisms and handling obstacles. The idea was to share the common platform of discussion for successful partnership which is one of the requirements for a seamless relationship.

The second session was started with a lecture by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla (Chair, IFCC TFYS) on topic "Best Practices for Collaboration between Industry & University" and chaired by Dr. Guilaine Boursier (core member IFCC-TFYS). He stated "There is an out-come-impact gap in collaborations: Promising outcomes of university projects often fail to translate into tangible impacts for the companies involved." Then he presented case studies to show how they vary widely in their aims, and each had a variety of impacts on the university partner. Dr. Dabla stressed the need of high level strategic partnership for the innovative and economic growth. This was followed by a lecture from Dr. Francois Blanchecotte (president Syndicat des Biologistes &

President JIB) on topic "Medical Laboratory – Need for Promoting Innovation" where he discussed "Why Innovation increasingly depends on the ability to work together across a number of disciplines." So it is necessary to encourage multidisciplinary academic programs and promote the engagement of industry in such programs to drive a new multidisciplinary culture and curricula. Lastly Dr. Bernard Gouget (co-president EuroMedLab Paris 2015 & Chair Congress Organizing Committee) gave his vision about "Effective Collaboration between Industry & Clinical Research- Need for working together." He explained how it is important for the policymakers to ensure a predictable, stable environment of funding and regulation for long-term strategic partnerships. Thus the best people to decide a university's strategy are its own board and faculty heads with freedom to operate for effective partnership.

We are thankful to all our young colleagues for their presence and debate on such important topics and to our senior members especially Dr. Graham Beastall and Dr. Bernard Gouget for their immense support to bring this successful session. The session was successful in contributing to the critical thinking of opening new horizons for collaboration between industry and the university/research laboratory.

### "IFCC-TFYS Evening Debate: The Youth EuroMedLab Network"; Tuesday, June 23, 2015; 20:00

This networking session/social meeting was one of its own kind first initiatives by IFCC-TFYS and their European Members. All the registered YS were invited to attend the evening debate/ social gathering with com-

pulsory preregistration to the event.

The "IFCC-TFYS Evening Debate: The Youth EuroMedLab network" was organized by Dr. Bernard Gouget, president of the Congress organizing committee and two French YS, Gaëlle Tachon and Guilaine Boursier. The meeting was attended by 85 young scientists from 31 different countries. The meeting commenced by gathering in front of the Eiffel Tower, followed by a cruise on the Seine.

YS had four hours of networking during which each YS had a chance to speak with YS from the thirty different nationalities which were represented. In addition, it was an opportunity to meet nearly all the core members of IFCC Task Force for YS and explored new friendships among the spectacular Paris skyline and its sparkling Eiffel tower.

More information on the event can be found on our webpages and social media [www.ifcc.org/task-force-young-scientists-web-pages/social-media/](http://www.ifcc.org/task-force-young-scientists-web-pages/social-media/) and on our mailing list [ifcc-taskforce-ys@yahoo.com](mailto:ifcc-taskforce-ys@yahoo.com) (to subscribe: [ifcc-taskforce-ys-suscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ifcc-taskforce-ys-suscribe@yahoo.com))

### Acknowledgements:

IFCC-TFYS, which now has extended to 6 core members, 1 consultant and corresponding members from 26 different countries wishes to thank all those who supported these "IFCC-TFYS" events at EuroMedLab Paris 2015 especially Dr. Bernard Gouget, chair Organizing Committee EuroMedLab 2015 and Dr. Graham Beastall, Past President IFCC as well as our young colleagues who participated at the events.

For any queries and suggestions: Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla, Chair IFCC-TFYS; Email: [pradeep\\_dabla@yahoo.com](mailto:pradeep_dabla@yahoo.com)



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## Latin American Workshop Tackles Challenges of Laboratory Accreditation

By, Rosa Sierra-Amor, Corresponding Member, IFCC WG News, Maria Amelia Acuna, Argentine Accreditation body, Milena Monari, Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry, and Imilce Zuta, PTB Germany

Latin America is a large region formed by countries from North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean. In the effort of implementing ISO 15189 in laboratory accreditation, accreditation bodies and professional societies in laboratory medicine were invited to exchange experiences on the interpretation of ISO 15189.

Almost a year ago, the Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry, full member society of IFCC, in conjunction with the PTB (Technical Cooperation) from Germany, organized a meeting in Santiago de Chile on August 4–6, 2014, where professional societies, accreditation bodies and metrology institutes met to discuss how accreditation was conducted and how metrology institutes were addressing laboratory medicine requirements. Those present at such meeting decided to organize a *workshop on exchange of experiences about laboratory accreditation* in the region.

To accomplish this task, jointly with the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) in collaboration with the PTB, the workshop program was organized, taking place in Guatemala City, on May 12–15, 2015, being the Guatemala Accreditation Body (OGA), the host organization.

During this workshop, several questions about the requirements for achieving laboratory accreditation were addressed by the representatives from most of the accreditation bodies from the region. Also assessors of ISO 15189 and laboratory professionals on behalf of professional societies were invited to speak about "the standard." Issues related to management and technical requirements were highly discussed. The main idea was to learn and to listen to other accreditation entities, about their experiences, and how they have developed their accreditation programs.

The team formed by speakers and

facilitator from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and Peru presented topics on different aspects of the standard in order to open the discussion with the participants. It was mentioned how some countries achieved this, e.g., Mexico has implemented the standard since many years ago, which was adopted on voluntary basis, but until recently, laboratories were interested in applying ISO 15189. Other countries, e.g., Argentina and Chile were the first ones who initiated the process; in the case of Argentina, laboratories have begun slowly motivated to work on adapting its activities for compliance with the standard, but this process for most, is still in its early days of implementation. Others are now moving forward, e.g., Uruguay, and few more, e.g., Ecuador, have the interest of the government as well.

Problems and solutions, metrology issues, reference materials, and other aspects of the standard were discussed. In summary, and for 2015–2017 period, it was emphasized the need to continue working on harmonization of the interpretation of the standard. The training and strengthening of the assessor competence in applying the standard were highlighted as key aspects, which could also be extended to other relevant actors of the clinical laboratory, as the technical experts, members of professional societies also collaborates with the accreditation bodies.

At this workshop held in Guatemala City, the following countries were represented by a team formed by a representative of the accreditation body and a representative of the professional society: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, all worked together for four full days on exchanging experiences about the interpretation of ISO 15189.



Photo: Attendees to the Workshop on "Exchange of experiences about the interpretation of the ISO 15189," May 12-15, 2015, Guatemala City, Guatemala).



Photo: Santiago de Chile meeting with the participation of professional societies, accreditation bodies and metrology institutes, August 4–6, 2014.

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