



## European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 2009 Annual Report to IFCC EB

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The General Assembly (GA) of EFCC was held in June in Innsbruck, where the new executive board (EB) of EFCC was also elected. Current officers of the EB are as follows:

Past President	Vic Blaton (Belgium)
President	Andrea Rita Horvath (Hungary)
President-Elect	Ian Watson (United Kingdom)
Secretary	Hans van Pelt (The Netherlands)
Treasurer	Peter Schuff-Werner (Germany)
Member-at-Large	Kari Pulkki (Finland)
Member-at-Large	Mario Pazzagli (Italy)

EFCC received applications from the French, Italian and Swedish National Societies to host Euromedlab 2013 in Paris, Milan or Stockholm. The decision was taken at the EFCC GA in Innsbruck, and voting has concluded that Euromedlab 2013 will be held in Milan.

The EB contacted national societies to submit their priorities for the strategic and activity plans of EFCC for its next term of 2010-2011. The EB also drafted a key document that outlines the structure, procedures and rules of operation of EFCC. The EFCC EB met three times in 2009: in Milan (31 January - 1 February), Innsbruck (7 June) and Split (4-5 October). The following is a report of the year's activities.

### **STRUCTURE AND CONSTITUTION**

EFCC developed its structure further and established a new Committee for Public and Professional Relations. In addition, new working groups have been or are being established or reorganized. The current structure and a detailed description of key activities are described in the attached document and can also be found on EFCC's website ([www.efccim.eu](http://www.efccim.eu)).

Chairs of Committees:

Scientific:	Sverre Sandberg (NO)
Education and Training:	Elizabeta Topic (HR)
Quality Management:	Jean-Claude Libeer (BE) – appointed in 2009
Professional:	Simone Zerah (FR)
Public and Professional Relations:	Mariam Klouche (DE) – appointed in 2009
Finance:	Peter Schuff-Werner (DE)

The terms of reference for all committees (C) and working groups (WG) are now agreed. Working group structure has been revised, based on annual reporting and clarification of future tasks, activities and deliverables. Working groups submitted annual activity and budget plans for 2010 which form the basis of EFCC's proposal for 2010.

In addition to WGs, project groups (PG) are formulated for tasks which have dedicated funding, mostly from EU granting bodies (e.g. SPIDIA – established – and EUMETALAB – in preparation). It has been approved by the EB that from 2010, Task and Finish Groups (TFG) can be formulated for specific, well-focused tasks under the umbrella of certain WGs. Proposals for TFGs were submitted by National Societies and their establishment is pending on availability of funding.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**

The Committee reorganized its structure and merged 3 of its former working groups (i.e. WG Congresses and Conferences, WG-Postgraduate Education, WG-Distance Education) into two, i.e. WG-Conferences and Postgraduate Education (WG-CPE) and WG-DE.

***WG-Conferences and Postgraduate Education*** carried out the below activities:

- Two EFCC sessions at Euromedlab 2009 in Innsbruck; one by the Cardiac Markers WG and the other by the Accreditation WG.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation. Ohrid, September 16-19<sup>th</sup> 2009.
- 5<sup>th</sup> EFCC Symposium for Balkan Region. Proteins: from electrophoresis to proteomics. Belgrade, October 7-10 2009. All lectures of the 5<sup>th</sup> EFCC Symposium are published in Journal of Medical Biochemistry 2009; 28: 221-307 ([www.versita.com](http://www.versita.com); [www.dmbj.org.rs](http://www.dmbj.org.rs)). Report by N. Majkić-Singh, and V. Blaton is available at: [www.efcclm.eu/report\\_efcc\\_symposia.htm](http://www.efcclm.eu/report_efcc_symposia.htm)
- IFCC-EFCC Course on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, 7-11 October, Supetar, Croatia. The course was organized by IFCC's C-EBLM but former members of this committee, who are currently EFCC officers (namely S. Sandberg, W. Oosterhuis and AR. Horvath), participated in the delivery of the course as speakers and facilitators. EFCC financially supported the course as well.
- 9th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid Diseases. Dubrovnik, October 25-26, 2009.

The handbook of this event has been produced and made available on EFCC's website. New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Thyroid diseases, Handbook: Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 2009.

- The handbook of the 2008 Dubrovnik course was published in eJIFCC: New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Kidney Diseases. eJIFCC 2009;vol 20 number 1.

Negotiations have been started with CCLM to publish next year's course handbook materials as a special edition of the journal.

- EFCC officers attended and supported various national society meetings (e.g. in Croatia, and the Balkan Federation).
- Preparations are under way for organising the First European Joint Congress of EFCC and UEMS with the 1<sup>st</sup> Portuguese Joint Congress of Laboratory Medicine, to be held in Lisbon, on 14-17 October 2010. EFCC officers are delegated into the organizing and scientific committee of the conference. Conference details can be found on: [www.lisboncongress2010.org/](http://www.lisboncongress2010.org/).
- EFCC is represented in the Scientific Advisory Board of Worldlab and Euromedlab 2011. EFCC officers actively take part in shaping the program of this conference by proposing plenary and symposia sessions as well as assessing the proposals submitted to the organizers.

***WG-Distance Education*** carried out the following activities:

- Joint Symposium on Accreditation with SFBC, sponsored by BioRad, on 12-13 February 2009, in Paris. Videoconference was set up with participation of the Hungarian and Croatian national societies. EFCC officers (namely, M. Hallworth, W. Huisman, J-C Libeer and via video-links, E. Topic and AR Horvath) attended the meeting as speakers. B. Gouget and C. Giroud are acknowledged for initiation, fundraising, organizational support and promotion of this very successful activity.

Publications related to this activity:

- Proceedings of the 1st symposium on accreditation (paper version and e-version on [www.efcclm.eu](http://www.efcclm.eu), [www.qcnet.com/tabid/6654/Default.aspx](http://www.qcnet.com/tabid/6654/Default.aspx)).

- Editorial in Lab Medica International: EN ISO 15189 accreditation of medical labs for proven EU-level quality.
- The WG proposed webinars as a new tool for EFCC's educational activities. Workplans have been submitted to EFCC EB, and preparation of this activity and negotiations with various publishers (e.g. Elsevier) are under way. Members and chair of this WG are to be appointed officially in 2010. First deliverables are expected in 2010, depending on availability of funding support.

## SCIENCE COMMITTEE

- Current active working and project groups are:
  - WG-creatinine standardization – 'inherited' from EC4
  - WG-cardiac markers – 'inherited' from EC4
  - WG-biological variation – established in 2009
  - WG-guidelines – established in 2009
  - PG-SPIDIA on preanalytics in molecular testing (EU funded)
  - PG-EUMETALAB on biobanking (not yet EU funded, grant proposal in preparation)
- New WGs have been proposed and established on Test Evaluation and on Post-analytical EQAS in October 2009. These will start their activities in 2010.
- New TFGs were proposed by national societies for Lupus anticoagulant testing and for Cardiovascular risk.
- New joint WG or TFG proposed by the European Thrombosis Research Organization (ETRO) on various coagulation topics.
- Discussions have been initiated by IFCC in Innsbruck to set up an international joint group on PoCT. EFCC is represented in these discussions by Sverre Sandberg and Ian Watson.
- Assessment of new proposals is under way and if approved these could be established as TFGs under existing WGs. Establishment of new TFGs also depends on budget situation in 2010.

### **WG-Creatinine Standardization** carried out the following activities:

- The WG had a meeting In Innsbruck in June 2009, which was attended by an observer from South America (Dr. Stella Raymondo, Uruguay).
- Inventory of clinical problems due to global creatinine standardisation. The analytical improvement has far reaching clinical consequences (e.g. GFR determination, drug dosage calculation, MELD score).

The landscape of eGFR formulas is getting more and more complex. In 2009, the new CK-EPI formula has been presented. There is a serious risk that derived formulas, e.g. the Schwartz formula in children, the MELD score calculation in liver transplantation) might suffer from re-standardisation and inappropriate use of new formulas. The WG focuses on these unwanted side effects and prepares an inventory of existing clinical problems.

- Studying result comparability for serum creatinine within Europe (and its consequences).

### **WG-Cardiac Markers** carried out the following activities:

- The WG had a meeting in Innsbruck in 2009.
- The aim of the group was to survey the practice of using cardiac markers in different countries, e.g. which cardiac markers are used, what are their decision limits, interpretation of results and the effect of practice on patient outcomes. After an initial pilot survey, the results of which were presented in 2 recent publications and at several conferences, the WG currently is performing an updated and more extensive survey on the use and implementation of cardiac markers in European countries. The survey was sent, with the help of IFCC Office,

to the National Representatives and Presidents of EFCC National Societies in May 2009. The survey is available on the website of <http://www.carmague.fi/2/>.

- Preliminary results were presented during the EuroMedLab in Innsbruck in June 2009.
- Reminders have been sent in July and September 2009. By September 2009 the WG received only 176 responses from 17 different countries.
- The WG has also received requests from Canada and US to participate in the survey. After consultations with the Chair of IFCC Scientific Committee, M. Panteghini, the WG will expand the survey to Canada and US.
- Publication: Pulkki K, Suvisaari J, Collinson P, Ravkilde J, Stavljenic-Rukavina A, Hammerer-Lercher A, Baum H, van Dieijen-Visser MP, Laitinen P. A pilot survey of the use and implementation of cardiac markers in acute coronary syndrome and heart failure across Europe. The CARdiac MARker Guideline Uptake in Europe (CARMAGUE) study. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2009;47(2):227-34.

**WG-Biological Variation** carried out the following activities:

- This WG was established in 2009, therefore it is just gaining speed in terms of activities.
- Key activities include:
  - Development of a critical appraisal checklist to enable assessment and scoring of biological variation publications and develop quality specifications for the data sets.
  - Identification of some key targets for application and to look at the utility of the checklist.
- A web domain name ([www.Biologicalvariation.com](http://www.Biologicalvariation.com)) has been purchased to enable the work of the group. This can be developed as a source site for those wishing to use and apply biological variation data. Further discussions around content will be undertaken by the group, but content may include the following:
  - Web enabled critical appraisal checklist to assess whether published biological variation data sets meet minimum quality specifications.
  - Data base of data sets/publications that meet criteria.
  - Tools for enabling statistical analysis of data.
- In 2010, the main aim will be to develop and assess methods of meta-analysis of published biological variation data and to investigate whether this can be used to deliver robust estimates of biological variation indices for wider practical application.
- The group will meet in November/December in Amsterdam to develop these further for publication in 2010.

**WG-Guidelines** carried out the following activities:

- The WG is one of the joint activities of EFCC and UEMS Section of Medical Biopathology. This WG was established in 2009 and therefore it is just gaining speed in terms of activities.
- The WG had 2 meetings in 2009, one in June in Innsbruck and another one in November in Amsterdam.
- Activities are directed towards performing a study on the quality aspects of diagnostic recommendations in terms of evidence-based methodology. By a review of guidelines the WG wishes to investigate how laboratory medicine-related aspects are covered in different guidelines. This is expected to lead to recommendations on essential laboratory issues that need to be covered in diagnostic guidelines. Additionally, the WG is exploring the possibility of "EFCC guidelines". For EFCC approved guidelines, a formal procedure is needed. The WG is exploring the need for such guidelines and formal procedures and intends to prepare a procedure manual, if such need arises from national societies.

- The WG also prepares a study on the application of self-monitoring blood glucose as an example of a test that is introduced without evidence of its clinical efficacy. Peter Bunting from C-EBLM of IFCC was asked to join this effort.
- Future plans include a study on reflective testing, based on some preliminary initiatives ([www.reflectivetesting.com](http://www.reflectivetesting.com)).

**PG-SPIDIA** carried out the following activities:

- SPIDIA is an EU supported grant on standardization of the preanalytical phase in molecular testing ([www.spidia.eu](http://www.spidia.eu)). EFCC is involved in the dissemination of the activities of the SPIDIA project.
- Development and implementation of the web site for the SPIDIA applications within the [www.efccim.eu](http://www.efccim.eu) web site. Funding of this activity is provided by the EU grant.
- A meeting within SPIDIA has been organized at Hilden (Germany) in March 2009.
- Letter of EFCC president to national society presidents and representatives has been sent to promote the SPIDIA project and to encourage application for participation in a free ring trial on preanalytical quality assessment in molecular biology testing.

**PG-EUMETALAB** carried out the following activities:

- A new FP7 call, HEALTH2010 1.1-1, was issued in July 2009 that addresses the harmonization of multivariate phenotypes in complex diseases in the biobanking context. In response to the call, EUmetaLAB had launched a consortium called EUmetaQUAL in Innsbruck, in order to prepare a successful application.
- EUmetaLAB has teamed up with other international groups interested in the call and (mainly clinically integrated i.e. disease-oriented) biobanks. With the assistance of the chair, M. Neumaier, an application to HEALTH2010 1.1-1 call, named „BioBanking Quality Assurance and Data Acquisition“ (BBQADA), is being prepared.
- EFCC has been requested to join the scientific advisory board, next to EUROAGENTEST, EMQN, ILAC and EDMA, with a role in ensuring the quality of guidelines and recommendations, and to assist in the coordination of the EQA structures through the national societies within EFCC.

## **QUALITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The committee's leadership had to be changed as the formerly appointed chair, Mario Plebani, resigned from this position. This halted the progress of this committee for a while in 2009. Jean-Claude Libeer was appointed new chair of the committee and the new terms of reference for this C and its new WG on IVD Directive have been formulated. Currently the C has two WGs: the long-established Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG and the IVD WG.

**Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG** carried out the following activities:

- The WG met once in 2009, in Innsbruck.
- The Accreditation/ISO-CEN WG continues effective collaboration with European Accreditation agency and ISO TC 212 on implementation and development of ISO 15189 and related standards.
- Very recently IFCC proposed a joint EFCC-EA and IFCC-ILAC collaboration and the WG will represent EFCC in this endeavour.
- The WG produced a "Questionnaire concerning the assessment process of medical laboratories" which was sent to all EFCC member societies. Summary of the survey in form of a publication is under way.

- The WG contributed to presentations at the Accreditation Symposium in Paris (David Burnett, Anders Kallner, Jean-Claude Libeer and Wim Huisman).
- The group is actively involved in the Health Care Committee of the EA and produced a guidance paper on accreditation by the flexible scope, which is now accepted by the General Assembly of EA.
- The WG actively comments and successfully influences the content of draft documents produced by EA, ILAC and TC212. Areas of recent special interest have been traceability, method validation and uncertainty of measurement.
- Future plans include:
  - Training courses and materials for the (professional) assessors in co-operation with the Education and Training Committee of EFCC.
  - Guidance on retention of documents in medical laboratories.

**WG-IVD** carried out the following activities:

This is a new WG which is still open for membership and has just recently established its terms of reference as follows:

- To interpret and harmonize the use of the EU IVD Directive in laboratory practice and during accreditation of laboratories in Europe.
- To provide guidance for laboratories, vendors and assessors on the requirements for the documentation (needed in the scope of accreditation) for installation and preventive maintenance of equipment.
- To provide guidelines for the set-up of method validation reports in different fields of laboratory medicine.

To achieve the above, the WG intends to

- produce guidelines for the traceability of calibrations and measurements performed by IVD and other equipment providers during preventive maintenance interventions and during installation.
- define minimum validation criteria to be reported for IVDs used according to (1) the manufacturer's recommendations; (2) modified methods; (3) in-house developed methods.

In addition, the WG represents EFCC in the European Commission "Exploratory process on medical devices" in its Workstream 3 expert group on "Competitiveness and innovation".

## **PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

The Professional Committee currently has one permanent Working Group:

**WG EC4 Register Commission** carried out the following activities:

- The EC4 Register is accepted as an EC-approved self-regulation initiative by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), raising the profile of clinical chemistry at EU level and providing a common basis for assessing laboratory professionals across the European Union. The Register is included on the EESC/SMO (European Economic and Social Committee/Single Market Observatory) database and website ([www.eesc.europa.eu/self-and-coregulation/index.asp/full.asp?ID=121](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/self-and-coregulation/index.asp/full.asp?ID=121)) and the next aim is to achieve Co-regulation.
- The remit of this WG and C is to lobby for co-regulation and recognition of the Register at European Commission/Parliament level. The committee oversees the work of the Register Commission via the independently funded Foundation Board and reports to the EFCC Executive Board.
- The WG met twice in 2009; at Euromedlab in Innsbruck in June and in Paris in November.

- EC4RC has membership in CEPLIS and regularly attends the meetings of its Working Group on Healthcare and represents EFCC at their General Assembly (last GA was in May 2009).
- Revision of the EC4 Syllabus is about to start with the involvement of the Education and Training Committee of EFCC.
- The WG has been preparing a survey on the training and responsibilities of scientists and medical specialists in all European countries. The EFCC Education and Training Committee and the Professional Committee are working with UEMS to design the survey with the ultimate aim of a joint publication.
- The WG revised and updated its Code of Conduct which was published in Clin Chem Lab Med in March 2009 and is also available on the EC4 website ([www.ec4register.eu](http://www.ec4register.eu)). A copy of the publication had been sent to the Presidents of national societies recommending acceptance. A disciplinary procedure is required as an adjunct to the Code of Conduct and this will be prepared in 2010.
- The Guide to the Register has been revised and should be published in Clin Chem Lab Med early in 2010.
- Ongoing activities are a web-supported application procedure and re-registration of members whose membership in the EC4 Register has expired. The Netherlands society has agreed to pilot a scheme to automatically link EC4 registration to its national register, so that an applicant would be registered immediately with EC4 when they are placed on the national register.
- There are currently over 2200 registrants from 20 countries on the EC4 Register.
- The C and its WG operate the EC4 website ([www.ec4register.eu](http://www.ec4register.eu)) which is separately administered and funded by the EC4 Foundation. A revision of the website was undertaken in 2009. There is a direct link from the EFCC website to the EC4 website and *vice versa*.
- Publication: McMurray J, Zérah S, Hallworth M *et al.* The European Register of Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine: Code of Conduct, Version 2-2008. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009;47(3):372-375.

## **PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

This C was officially established in October 2009. PR activities, such as EFCC News and website, were previously coordinated by the EB and with the assistance of B. Gouget. For the increasing activities of EFCC, it became essential to form a PPR committee and the EB appointed Mariam Klouche as chair.

- The Committee's responsibilities are summed up in its terms of reference:
  - To communicate EFCC's activities and results to member societies, partners and the public.
  - To edit and issue the EFCC Newsletter and other promotional materials.
  - To edit, regularly update and maintain EFCC's website ([www.efcclm.eu](http://www.efcclm.eu)).
  - To coordinate EFCC's publications via its official journal, CCLM
  - To support the European editorial board of Labtests Online, in collaboration with EDMA.
- The Newsletter is intended to be published quarterly. EFCC News editor is B. Gouget
- After long deliberation and failure of the IFCC website and web editor to set up EFCC's website, EFCC EB decided to appoint the EC4 webmaster, Holger Everding of DTP Studios (Germany), to also develop EFCC's website. The new EFCC website ([www.efcclm.eu](http://www.efcclm.eu)) had been launched on 7 June 2009 at Euromedlab. The EB appointed Camelia Grigore (Romania) as EFCC's website content editor. EFCC's website is thus independently operated from the IFCC website but with IFCC's financial support, and on a contractual basis.

- The Committee also supports the European editorial board of LabTests Online which, in collaboration with EDMA, provides information to European patients on laboratory testing in Czech, French, English, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, and Spanish languages. The Portuguese version is under construction.
- The official scientific journal of EFCC is Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM). EFCC has been negotiating a draft agreement with the Publisher, Walter de Gruyter & Co. KG, which will take effect from 2010 onwards.
- EFCC related promotional publications, by courtesy of B. Gouget, in the EFCC Corner of Labmedica International:
  - Editorial: EN ISO 15189 accreditation of medical labs for proven EU-level quality. *Labmedica p38 vol 26 n°1,2-34 /2009*
  - Creativity in the spotlight of EFCC. *Labmedica p38 vol26 n°2,4 /2009*
  - EU elections and the need for common health standards. *Labmedica p40 vol26 n°3,5 /2009*
  - Clean hands, Clean conscience. *Labmedica p48 vol26 n°4,6-7 /2009*
  - Young lab med scientists in pursuit of serendipity. *Labmedica p32 vol26 n°5, 9-10 /2009*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Separate EFCC sub-account has been established. IFCC EB has decided that the IFCC grant to EFCC will be handled by IFCC Treasurer and office at the advice of EFCC Treasurer, while the EFCC sub-account is managed by the EFCC Treasurer but handles only EFCC's own income from other sources. This dual accountancy has imposed significant administration on all parties involved and made management of EFCC funds extremely bureaucratic, tedious and frustrating. EFCC wishes to propose to IFCC to agree to only one self-managed EFCC sub-account to decrease the burden, costs of administration and time spent on financial management of accounts.

Subscriptions to EFCC for 2009 have been collected from most member societies (many thanks to Lisa Ionescu at IFCC office for her efforts!).

Budget for 2010 has been prepared and submitted. Funding from external sources has been sought continuously. Corporate membership in EFCC has been considered, but the EB agreed, after consultations with EDMA and some corporate representatives, that sponsorship should be in form of dedicated projects and activities rather than in the form of a regular membership. Negotiations are under way with companies to sponsor specific activities of EFCC in the future.

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### ***IFCC:***

EFCC EB has been working on a draft agreement with IFCC EB in order to formalize the relationship of IFCC with its regional federations. The guideline on Euromedlab conferences forms an integral part of these negotiations. The draft agreement will be discussed with IFCC executive committee and representatives of other regional federations at the General Conference of IFCC in 2010 in Corfu.

IFCC proposed joint collaboration in the below fields which is strongly supported by EFCC:

- accreditation, together with EFCC-EA and IFCC-ILAC. The WG on Accreditation/ISO-CEN will represent EFCC in this joint activity.
- PoCT – EFCC's science committee supports this initiative.

Terms of reference for both groups need to be determined in 2010.

### ***UEMS:***

EFCC has strengthened its collaboration with UEMS in 2009:

- The first EFCC-UEMS joint congress is scheduled for October 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal.
- A joint survey on training of clinical chemists in Europe is planned by the C-ET, the EC4RC and UEMS Biopathology Section.
- The WG-Guidelines is also set up as a joint EFCC-UEMS activity.

### ***EDMA:***

- Collaboration continues with EDMA on Lab Tests Online European sites. France launched its LTO site in November 2009. Portuguese version is also expected soon.
- EFCC and EDMA take part in the European Commission initiated "Exploratory process on the future of the medical devices sector" meetings. The aim of this initiative is to map the existing industrial and public health challenges in the sector and investigate possible topics of reflection at the European level. EFCC was invited to all three work stream groups of this initiative to represent the views of the laboratory profession in Europe. Three meetings are held by the EC in Brussels and attendance of EFCC officers at these meetings is covered by the EU. In 2009, EFCC officers attended two meetings, one in October for presidents of invited organizations, and the other for experts in the 3 work stream groups. It was agreed that the key areas identified at this meeting series can form the basis of future collaboration with EDMA as well.

### ***Journals and Publishers:***

- EFCC has strengthened its relationship with CCLM and will sign a formal agreement with the Publisher, Walter de Gruyter & Co. KG, which will take effect from 2010 onwards. EFCC C-ET prepared the ground for publishing special editions of CCLM, based on publications related to EFCC symposia and postgraduate courses.
- WG-DE is negotiating about the establishment of EFCC webinars with the Publisher Elsevier.

### **AWARDS**

Nominations for EFCC's Roche Award to a clinical chemist who has made a major contribution to European Clinical Chemistry were sought from National Societies. The EFCC-Roche Scientific Award for Laboratory Medicine for 2009 was most deservedly awarded and presented to Rob Jansen in Innsbruck.

A new award, the EFCC-Abbott Labs are Vital Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine, was announced at Euromedlab in Innsbruck. The launch of this new award was also announced in CCLM. The first award will be granted at Euromedlab 2011 in Berlin.

Andrea Rita Horvath  
President, EFCC

*Enc.*