APFCB News 2019

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The APFCB News welcomes suitable contributions for publication. These should be sent electronically to the Chief Editor. Statements of opinions are those of the contributors and are not to be construed as official statements, evaluations or endorsements by the APFCB or its official bodies.

Cover page: *Charming Ancient Water Town after Snow-Fall*.
Contributed by Tan It Koon
Founding and Past President APFCB

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From the desk of Chief Editor

Dear Friends,

Season’s Greetings and a very Happy New year 2019!!!!

I present to you the first issue of APFCB newsletter with a great sense of gratitude for your constant support to this endeavour. This issue would be encompassing the major activities of member societies towards the end of the previous year and beginning of the current year.

I take this opportunity to thank those member societies and national representatives who have contributed by sending the activities report form their societies. I also request other member societies to contribute and enrich the APFCB newsletter by sending in their academic activities. This is an excellent platform for all the members to get to know about each--others’ year round activities, which are otherwise missed. I also would like our corporate partners to contribute to this news--letter in the form of scientific articles highlighting their novel innovative technologies.

This year will be marked by the organization of 15th APFCB congress 2019, Jaipur in November. It is my pleasure to invite all the member societies and corporate members of APFCB to this gala academic meet. I ensure you an exciting and informative scientific programme that will be quite broad and varied, encompassing plenary lectures, symposia, breakout sessions and workshops on different issues related to laboratory medicine by world renowned experts. The programme would feature various parallel streams covering a wide variety of topics, enabling you to tailor the programme as per your own interests and clinical practice. There will be several information packed Pre Congress Workshops on 17th November as well.

The 2019 APFCB Congress will be held in Jaipur, a modern city with an old world charm. Originally, the city of kings and royal family, this has ancient city now gained prominence worldwide as an important IT and medical tourism hub. It also boasts of a modern world – class airport with a range of international and domestic connections.

This issue has been graced by a cover page from the founding President of APFCB, Prof Tan It Koon. It is heart--warming to see Prof Tan It Koon’s continued support in the form of cover page for this news--letter consistently since last eleven issues and this is the twelfth issue that has his wonderful painting as cover page. This issue depicts a painting titled “Charming Water Town after Snow Fall”.

Endeavouring further to fulfill of my commitments as chief editor. I shall steadfastly continue my dedicated efforts to raise APFCB news to further heights.

Praveen Sharma
Chief Editor
Message from APFCB President

Dear friends and colleagues, greetings and thank you for reading our first installment of the APFCB Newsletter for 2019.

I’m excited for 2019, as this will be the year where we hold our triennial APFCB Congress. This Congress will be held in Jaipur, India from 17–20 November 2019. There will be plenty to stimulate the mind and the conference organizing team is busy planning for the event.

Firstly, the scientific program will be a feast as we have overwhelming support from APFCB member societies and eminent global organizations such as the IFCC, EFLM, WASPaLM and AACC. You can expect an interesting mix of plenary talks, symposia and workshops, all updating participants on a wide-range of laboratory medicine topics.

In addition to the scientific talks, the exhibition and booth area will showcase the latest in diagnostics from major global vendors. Participants should also not miss out on the fabulous tourist attractions of this desert capital fondly labelled as India’s Pink City, because of the pink buildings of the enchanting old city. The total experience of science and sightseeing will be truly an opportunity of a lifetime.

I was fortunate to visit Jaipur earlier this year, in February. The team was busy planning for the event at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC). This is a new Exhibition–Convention facility which will host our APFCB event. Also, the committee is planning a sumptuous spread of authentic Indian cuisine to satisfy our taste buds.

Do make plans for attending the APFCB Congress and I look forward to welcoming and meeting up with friends and colleagues in Jaipur.

Finally, I would like to thank the APFCB Newsletter and editorial team for their consistent hard work and innovation. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and I particularly like the e-book format of presentation.

My best wishes, always.

SK Sethi

Sunil Sethi
President, APFCB
Dear friends and colleagues, greetings and best wishes.

Thank you for visiting the APFCB website. As we embark on our activities for 2019, allow me to briefly share some of the activities which we carried out over the last year.

I hope to see everyone at our upcoming APFCB Congress in Jaipur, India from the 17–20 November 2019.

The Congress Organizing Committee has developed an exciting program with good science, great hospitality and a wonderful opportunity for networking with friends and colleagues.

1. **APFCB Travelling Lecturer**

   The APFCB Visiting Lecturer for 2018/19 is Dr. Raja Elina Raja Aziddin, who is the President of the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB).

   The first engagement was at the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka Annual Academic Meeting in Columbo in March. The Travelling Lecturer has presented at the following meetings:

   - July – Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry – Bali
   - August – Vietnamese Association of Clinical Chemistry – Da Nang

   March 2019 – Singapore Association (SACB) and Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)

   This travelling lecture program enabled young scientists to attend and benefit from interactions with a visiting lecturer from the region.

**APFCB Chemical Pathology Course – Vietnam**

This annual event took place in June with approximately 250 participants in Hanoi and 350 in HCMC. The program contains a mixture of invited and local speakers presenting on routine chemical pathology topics. The popularity of the program continues to grow.

A total of 550 participants benefitted from this wide-ranging and useful course in chemical pathology. Funding support for the program enabled young and eager scientists in Vietnam to be aware of global developments in the laboratory medicine.
2. **APFCB VACB Lean Project**

The Lean project continues with the support of funding from APFCB and from Roche in Vietnam. At this time there have been 31 trainers trained in 11 Lean ‘train the trainer’ workshops. These trainers have in turn trained 230 laboratory staff from 101 laboratories in Vietnam. The emphasis of the training has been standardisation of techniques and a just in time approach to using a suite of Lean tools. Small laboratory improvement projects are favoured so that trainees learn from the application of the tools. Many young scientists benefitted from the program. These scientists would certainly have not been able to travel overseas for such a useful and practical program.

3. **MACB Chemical Pathology Course**

The APFCB and the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB) conducted its second in the series of chemical pathology course in January 2019. At the MACB Chem Path course over 144 registrants registered for the statistics course and 120 for the main Chemical Pathology Course.

4. **APFCB Becton Dickinson Pre-Analytical Improvement Project**

The APFCB-BD phlebotomy audit program has been successful at reducing pre-analytical error in a number of APAC countries. The aim of this project is to produce an APFCB training course for phlebotomy auditors that could be used throughout the Region. An MoU with BD was signed in January and the project is underway. To pilot the program two countries have been identified, the Philippines and Singapore. Key outcomes from the project will include the following:

1. A Self – Assessment Check list
2. Development of a Best Practice Guideline for Phlebotomy
3. A Pre-Analytical Workshop will be presented at the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists meeting in November.

5. **APFCB–AACB Scholarships**

Two scholarships were awarded for two young investigators (Sri Lanka and India) to attend and present their posters at the AACB Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney September 2018.

6. **APFCB–AACC Workshops**

The APFCB has been collaborating with the AACC with their Global Lab Quality Initiative (GLQI) as part of the Asia Pacific Working Group (APWG). This year there have been three two-day workshops held in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nepal in conjunction with the local APFCB member Society. The APFCB and the AACC will continue to work on this project to assist in the development of educational programs. There will also be a workshop in Jaipur.
The plans for 2019 educational grants:

1. APFCB–AACB Scholarships
Two scholarships will be awarded for young scientists and investigators to attend and present their posters at the 57TH AACB Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, 15–17 October 2019.

2. 15TH APFCB Congress
The 15TH APFCB Congress will be held in Jaipur, India, 17–20 November 2019. Scholarships for young scientists are being discussed and will provide financial assistance for bright scientists to attend the event. Look out for details in the congress website.

Sunil Sethi
President APFCB
2 April 2019
We are pleased to inform you about the latest updates of the upcoming 15th Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress to be held at Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre, Jaipur, India from 17th – 20th November 2019. The organising committee will arrange scientific and social activities to enrich the knowledge, skills and networks.

The preparations being made:

- APFCB congress committee members which included President APFCB, Corporate representative have done a site inspection on February 9th & 10th 2019 and seen all the preparations being made.
- The conference website is live with the details of the venue, city and organising committee, online registration module is also integrated on the same. http://apfcbcongress2019.org
- Abstract submission is open with topics. Last date of abstract submission is 30th June 2019.
- http://www.eregnow.com/controlcenter/forms/preview.asp?key=ODczODQ5MjE2&step=MQ&memberId=&msg=
- The conference registration fee is finalized and an online link http://in.eregnow.com/ticketing/register/default/apfcbcongress2019.com?ccy=INR is integrated on the website and app for online registration. We have kept same registration fees for neighbouring countries (Srilanka, Pakistan & Nepal) as per the host countries to increase maximum participation with the permission from APFCB EB. http://www.apfcbcongress2019.org/registration-fee.
• Early bird registration is 15th August 2019.
• The organizing committee has kept same rates of sponsorship as per APFCB 2016.
• The organizing committee has kept same rates of sponsorship as per APFCB 2016.
• The venue of the congress is finalized as JECC (Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre). It’s a state of art structure with 60,000 Sq. Ft. convention facility. It can accommodate 1200 delegates in plenary and has 20 meeting rooms with large pre-function area, registration area, interpretation rooms and lawns for outdoor events.
• Pre-conference workshops and functional meetings venue has been finalised as Hotel Marriott, Jaipur.
• An advanced mobile application is designed for APFCB 2019 with features like online registration, real time push notifications for any update, Session and Speaker bookmark with various other unique features. [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=app.APFCB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=app.APFCB).
• The accommodation for the conference has already been blocked within close vicinity of the venue.
• Conference event manager – Mike Hospitality has been finalised. MIKE has successfully managed various National & International conferences and has skilled team members to manage the conference of the APFCB repute, moreover, they have successfully managed various National conferences of ACBI.
• The organizing committee arranged various promotional activities for the conference at international forums viz.
   14th APFCB Congress, Taipei 2016
   Euromed Lab, Athens 2017
   IFCC World Lab, Durban, 2017
   Annual conference of the college of chemical pathologist of Srilanka, 2018
   Cherry Blossom, Japan, 2018
   AACC, Chicago, 2018
   Euromedlab 2019, Barcelona
   AACC 2019, Anheim, California

• Among the travel scholarships – IFCC Roche has graciously committed for two travel scholarships.
• Scientific program
  Scientific program structure approved by Scientific committee.
• 4 Plenary Speakers have been invited and finalised.
• 27 international symposium are confirmed with more than 150 speakers from outside India have confirmed their participation.
• The following member societies of APFCB would be participating in the APFCB congress 2019–
There would be 5 IFCC supported symposium by IFCC-EMD, IFCC-ETD, IFCC-CPD, IFCC-CCLM and IFCC-TFYS divisions.

The regional federations of IFCC like the Latin American society COLABIOCLI would be organizing one symposium.

There will also be symposium organised by EFLM, WASPaLM, RCPAQP.

The AACC is organizing 2 symposium and one pre-conference workshop.

6 workshops are finalized from AACC, IFCC-EB, IFCC-ETD, IFCC-CCLM/TFYS, AACB and Roche-ACBI.

Annual functional meetings of IFCC-EB, TFYS, IFCC ETD and IFCC-CPD.

Coordination in process with corporates for sponsorship.

Eight corporate members have confirmed their participation for industrial symposium.

Conference and corporate brochure is available on website.

The congress is organised by ACBI and is supported by AMBI.

The organizing committee looks forward to the participation of all the members from the Asia pacific region in great numbers and make this conference a great success.

Praveen Sharma

Chairman, Organizing Committee

APFCB congress 2019.
Activities of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India in 2018

The year started with the newly elected office bearers elected at the General Body meeting of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India held in Lucknow on December 5, 2017, taking up their office. The office bearers elected for 2018 were:

**PRESIDENT:** Dr. Abbas A. Mahdi

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Dr. Jairam Rawtani

**ADVISOR** Prof. K.P. Sinha

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** Dr. Poornima Manjrekar

**GENERAL SECRETARY** Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha

**IMMEDIATE PAST SECRETARY** Dr. M. V. R. Reddy(late)

**TREASURER** Dr. Krishna Ranjan Prasad

**JOINT SECRETARY** Dilutpal Sharma
Dr. Ram Binay Sinha

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- **South Zone** Dr. Kanan Viadyanathan
- **East Zone** Dr. A. N. Roy
- **West Zone** Dr. Sadanand Naik
- **Central Zone** Dr. Shivani Pandey

**Editor-in-Chief, IJCB** Dr. Praveen Sharma

**National Representative to APFCB** – Dr. Rajiv R. Sinha, General Secretary, ACBI

**Activities in 2018:**

**REGIONAL MEETINGS:**
During this year many scientific activities were organized by State / Regional chapters of ACBI in different parts of the country.
ACBI West Zone meet
The ACBI West Zone CME was organized by ACBI Maharashtra State branch along with Pathology Laboratory, Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune on 19th November 2017 at DMH, Pune on “NUTRIGENOMICS IN HEALTH CARE”

NORTH ZONE CONFERENCE OF ACBI
North Zone ACBICON 2018 based on apt theme “Paradigm shift in Lab medicine : Integrating omics with diagnostics” was held in AIIMS Jodhpur on 7th & 8th April 2018. The conference was organized by the Department of Biochemistry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur under aegis of Rajasthan Society for Association of Clinical Biochemists India. The two days conference was inaugurated by Prof Madhu Dikshit, Former Director CSIR, Lucknow. Prof Abbas Ali Mahdi President ACBI, Prof Rajeev R Sinha General Secretary ACBI, Prof Sanjeev Misra, Director AIIMS Jodhpur and Prof Praveen Sharma.

West Bengal Chapter
ACBI West Bengal Chapter and Department of Biochemistry, College of Medicine & JNM Hospital, WBUHS, Kalyani organized a national conference on “Biomarker” on January 19-20, 2018. The program was inaugurated by the Principal, COMJNMH and Prof. Abbas Ali Mahdi, President, ACBI and the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Era University.
CENTRAL ZONE CONFERENCE OF ACBI
The National Conference “Central Zone ACBICON” 2018 was jointly organized by Department of Biochemistry, King George’s Medical University, Lucknow and Era University at Era University, Lucknow on 21st & 22nd July 2018. The Conference was inaugurated by the chief guest of the occasion Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, of UP University of Medical Sciences Saifai, Etawah, U.P, Lucknow. Prof. M. L. B. Bhatt, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of King George’s Medical University, Lucknow was the Guest of Honor of the occasion.

ACBI ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE – 2018
The 45th. Annual National conference of the Association was held from 24th. to 27th October at Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa. The following activities took place in the conference;

Day 1 – 24th October 2018
The Pre-conference workshops and CME program of ACBICON-2018 were held at Hotel Taj Vivanta and was inaugurated by the Organizing Secretary, Dr. Rajiv R Sinha, who welcomed the participants of the workshops and the CME’s as well as the members of ACBI.
All the three workshops were conducted concurrently. The first workshop was organized by American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), generously supported by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation on "Early diagnosis of biochemical genetic disorders saves children’s lives: A discussion on the merits and the process to successfully implement newborn screening." The program was moderated by Michael Bennett, PhD; Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania and AACC Past President. He spoke on Global situation for newborn screening and also on the Practical considerations for setting up a laboratory for newborn screening with Requirements to provide a complete service covering all newborns in the country. Quality control issues and reporting requirements. The second speaker was Dr. Carla Cuthbert, PhD, CDC, USA who spoke on "Working to ensure accurate and reliable laboratory testing in newborn screening: Activities of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in supporting Laboratory Quality.

Damodaran M. Vasudevan dwelt on need to identify the size of the problem and the disease patterns in the Indian population. This was followed by case presentations by Dr. Kanan Vaidyanathan & Dr Bennet which was followed by a Panel discussion on the need to identify the size of the problem and the disease patterns in the Indian population. The Second workshop was on Application of Genome sequencing in clinical diagnostics". Dr. Sailesh Gochhait & Dr Ashish George spoke on Next Gen Sequencer, Microarray in oncology and reproductive health and Sanger Sequencer. The third workshop on Flow Cytometer and its application was conducted by Ubaldo Babosa, Technical Consulting, BD.
Day 2 – 25th October 2018

The Inaugural Ceremony took place on 25th October in the main auditorium of Kala Academy with Dr. Howard Morris, President, IFCC as the Chief Guest and Dr Helen Martin, Secretary APFCB as the Guest of Honour. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Praveen Sharma, Organising Chairperson of ACBICON 2018. The formal inauguration by lighting the lamp was done by all the dignitaries. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr. Abbas Mahdi. The annual report of ACBI was presented by Dr. R.R. Sinha General Secretary. This was followed by the speech by Guest of Honour – Dr. Helen Martin. The release of Souvenir was done by the chief Guest. The various fellowships and awards were granted and followed by the felicitation to the awardees. The chief guest Dr. Howard Morris addressed the gathering and shared his experiences. This was followed by the installation of the new President. Dr. L. M. Srivastava took over as the President of ACBI 2019 from the Immediate Past President Dr. Abbas A. Mahdi, Vice Chancellor, Era’s University, Lucknow. Dr. Rajiv R Sinha, proposed the vote of thanks.
Immediately after the inaugural function, the day’s scientific program started with the prestigious *Awadhesh Saran Memorial Oration* which was delivered by Prof. Howard Morris with Dr Praveen Sharma and Dr Rajiv R Sinha as chairpersons. Prof. Morris spoke on “Healthcare, Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care”. The second oration was the *Dr. T. N. Pattabiraman Oration* which was delivered by Dr. Subrata Sinha, Professor & Head of Biochemistry at AIIMS, New Delhi and the topic was "Molecular reclassification of disease; how the laboratory can guide the clinic."

The inauguration of the industrial exhibition was done by Dr. Praveen Sharma President, Corporate wing of ACBI, Dr. Howard Morris, president, IFCC and Dr. Rajiv Sinha, Organising Secretary ACBICON 2018.

After a much needed tea break, the 3 parallel symposia started in different halls. **Symposia 1** was the *IFCC-TFYS Program* with the theme of “Next steps in Lab Medicine of the Future: Young Specialists & Technology”. This was chaired by Prof. Howard Morris, Dr Abbas Mahdi and Dr. Pradeep Dabla, Chair, IFCC-TFYS. The speakers were Dr. Praveen Sharma, Prof Damien Gruson, Dr. Pradeep Dabla and Dr Danny Li. **Symposia 2** was on Translating Cancer genomics and proteomics too precision medicine.
The speakers were Prof. Neeta Singh, Dr. Sudip Sen, Dr Suchanda Sahu & Dr. Mamta Kankra. **Symposia 3 was on Precision Oncology – tools for personalized cancer diagnostics** in which the speakers were Dr. Jyotdeep Kaur (PGIMER, Chandigarh), Dr Biplab Bose (IIT, Guwahati) & Dr Arnab Pal (PGIMER, Chandigarh). The Poster Presentation was held in the post lunch session in which around 100 posters were displayed which was followed by two Industrial lectures which were organized by Randox & Bio–Rad. Symposia 4, 5 & 6 was held from 3.30 to 5 pm. The topic for **Symposia 4 was Laboratory management, challenges & Diagnostics** which was chaired by Dr T Venkatesh & Dr Elizabeth Frank. The speakers were Dr. Aditi Gupta, Medanta the Medicity (Lean Management and Its Challenges), Dr Shyamali Pal Consultant Biochemists (Ensuring quality improvement of pre analytical phase of laboratory services by external quality assessment), Dr Rajiv Singla DM (Endocrinology), FRCP (Edin); Consultant Endocrinology Kalpavriksh Healthcare, Dwarka, Delhi (Roche Symposia) and Dr Liela Florento (Philippines). (Creating sustainable safety culture in the clinical.) **Symposia 5 was on micro RNAs as novel biomarkers in non-communicable diseases** which was chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad & Dr Purvi Purohit).

The speakers who spoke in this session were **Dr Purvi Purohit** (Micro RNAs – Novel Biomarkers in Diabetes Mellitus), **Dr Alpana Sharma** (Diagnostic and therapeutic role of microRNAs in cancer) & **Dr. S. S. Naik** (Identification of a milk derived cobalamin the consumption of which could improve vitamin B12 status of vegetarians) **Symposia 6 was a session by the AACC India Section** chaired by Dr Michael Bennet (Past President, AACC ) & Dr Ravinder Jit Singh (Mayo Clinic). This session was moderated by Dr. Kanan Vaidyanathan. **Dr Bennet, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, & Director of the Metabolic Disease laboratory at "The Children’s Hospital, Philadelphia”** spoke on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine: why is it different? **Sr. Ravinder Jit Singh** spoke on Role of LC–MS/MS spectrometry in diagnosis of various endocrine disorders. The last session of the day were the **Free Oral paper presentation** on different topics. 23 delegates spoke on various topics covering Nutrition, Endocrine & Metabolic diseases.
Day 2 – 26th October 2018

The second day of the ACBICON 2018 at Kala Academy, started with the two Orations, the Seth G. S Medical College & KEM Hospital Oration at 9.00 AM by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, former Professor & Head, PGIMER, Chandigarh. He spoke on Molecular and functional basis of cystic fibrosis in Indian patients: Genetic, Diagnostic and Therapeutic implications. The 2nd oration, Mrs. & DR. G. P. Talwar Oration was delivered by Prof. P. Kaliraj, ICMR Emeritus Medical Scientist at Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai. His talk was on “Development and evaluation of effective diagnostics prophylactics and drug targets for neglected parasitic diseases with filariasis as model”.

The SYMPOSIA 7 was organized by the IFCC Scientific Division. The speakers were Dr Howard Morris (Vitamin D metabolism, requirement and biological activity) , Dr. Barnali Das (Neuro Immune and Auto immune Markers) and Dr Helen Martin (Critical Risk Result Reporting).

SYMPOSIA 8 on Translational Immunology was chaired by Dr Kalpana Luthra and Dr Alpana Sharma. Speakers were Dr Amit Awasthi who spoke on “Understanding the pathways that lead to development of Th9 cells”, Dr. Amit Singh on “Phagosomal Acidity Triggers Drug Tolerance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis during Infection”, Dr. Kalpana Luthra on “Human anti–HIV–1 recombinant monoclonal antibodies: Potential anti–HIV reagents” and Dr. Ahmed Rafat Sultana on “Study of Cytokine Gene Polymorphisms in Rheumatoid Arthritis”. SYMPOSIA 9 was Molecular Diagnostics: Precision Medicine. The speakers were Dr. Vinod Scaria (Personal Genomes to Precision Medicine), Dr. Anuradha Chougule (Molecular profiling by Liquid Biopsy) And Dr. Sunil Tadepalli (Use of Whole Exome and Whole Genome sequencing in Molecular Diagnostics.)Symposia 7, 8 & 9 were followed by Industrial Lecture series which were organized by Randox and BD. These lectures were highly appreciated by all delegates. Lunch and Poster Presentation Session followed this presentation. The AFMC Quiz started at 2:00 pm, was a highly competitive affair with the Youth brigade fighting it out for the coveted prizes. The competition was so tough that we had joint winners in both 1st & 2nd prize category. Parallel with the AFMC Quiz was the Symposia 10 & 11. SYMPOSIA 10 was on Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics. The speakers and their topics were Dr. Barnali Das [who was delivering the ROCHE SYMPOSIA] Decoding Laboratory Challenges, Dr. Sadhna Sharma Hematological and biochemical variables of ischemic stroke in Indian population: a case control study, Prof. Satyavati Rana Hematological and biochemical variables of ischemic stroke in Indian population: a case control study and Dr. Molly Jacob The iron–hepcidin axis is intact in patients with chronic liver disease.

SYMPOSIA 11 titled “Medical Education: New Approaches for assessment in Biochemistry”. Dr Sucheta Dandekar spoke on “why should we introduce newer assessment methods in biochemistry”.

Dr Rohini Bhadre – Increasing the utility of MCQs and the last speaker was Dr. Dinesh Puri with the topic, Introducing new approaches in practical examination of Biochemistry.
From 4.30 to 5.30 pm was the session on **FREE PAPERS** in which 18 speakers spoke on topics ranging from Clinical Biochemistry to Cancer and miscellaneous topics.

After a short coffee break, the General Body Meeting of the Association took place in the auditorium of Kala Academy in which all the members took part in the business meeting of the association. The 2nd day ended with the Banquet Dinner by the banks of the Mandovi river.

**Day 3 – 27th October 2018**

The third & final day of the conference started with the presentation of the **K. L. Gupta Oration** by Dr. Anupama S. Borkar, Paedicatric Oncologists. Dr. K. K. Srivastava was the recipient of the **TARANATH SHETTY MEMORIAL POPULAR LECTURE ORATIONS** and he spoke on “I want to be happy”

**Symposia 12** was on Free Radicals & Nutraceuticals in health and diseases. The speakers were Dr. S. Santosh Kumar, BARC, and Mumbai. This was followed by talk by Dr. Subir Kumar Das of College of Medicine & JNM Hospital, Kalyani on **Grape (Vitis vinifera) Extracts Protect against Radiation–induced Oxidative Stress in Human Lymphocyte**. The last speaker of symposia 12 was Dr. Soumyakanti Adhikari RRPCD Chemistry Group, BARC Mumbai who talk was on **Mechanism for radical scavenging activity of small molecule antioxidants**. SYMPOSIA 13 was on **Recent advances in clinical Biochemistry and molecular Biology**. The speakers and their topics were Dr. S. M. Hadi, Faculty of Life Sciences, AMU, Aligarh, “Plant polyphenol mediated death of cancer cells is induced by elevated copper levels in such cells”, Prof. D. Dash, Department of Biochemistry, BHU, Varanasi: **Novel Strategy for Thrombolysis employing Gold Nanorods**, Dr. Shyam Prakash, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, AIIMS, Delhi; **Expression of Growth differentiation factor–15 in NAFLD and metabolic syndrome**. The last speaker was Dr. Medha Rajappa, JIPMER, and Puducherry on **Genetics of non-segmental vitiligo in a South Indian Tamil cohort: the JIPMER experience**. The last symposia of the conference, SYMPOSIA 14 was on **Cancer Biology and Therapeutics**. Dr. Shyam Chauhan, AIIMS, Delhi spoke on “**Prognostic Significance and Interacting Partners of Heterogeneous: Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein D In Oral Cancer**”, Dr. Manoj K Bhatt, National Centre for Cell Science, Pune was on “**Metabolic Impairments: Implications in Cancer and Chemotherapy**”;

Dr. Sameer Bakshi, Dr. BRAIRCH, AIIMS, New Delhi, “**Advancement in Cancer Therapeutics in Last Decade**".
Dr. Susanta Roychowdhury, Molecular Biology Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute, Thakurpukur, Kolkata, “Duality of p53 mutations in human cancer”.

This was followed by the Award Paper presentation by the young scientists from 11.30 am onwards.

This was followed by the valedictory function bringing the curtain down on 4 days of intense, high level scientific sessions. The Organizing Secretary, Dr. Rajiv Sinha thanked all the delegates and volunteers for making the conference a grand success. Dr. Howard congratulated Dr. Rajiv Sinha and his team for the successful organization of the conference. After this Awards, Certificates and cash prizes were distributed to all the award winners. The General Secretary, ACBI, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha in his valedictory address heartily congratulated all the organizing committee members and volunteers for their untiring efforts in making the ACBICON 2018, national conference a great success.

In the General Body held during the conference, the members elected the following as Executive committee members for the year 2018. Dr. L. M. Srivastava as President, Dr. Seema Bhargava as Vice President, Prof. K. P. Sinha as Advisor ACBI and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha as General Secretary. Dr. Ram Binay Sinha was elected as Joint secretary. Dr. Krishna Ranjan Prasad was elected as Treasurer. The Zonal Council members elected were Dr. Dharamveer Yadav (North Zone), Dr Kanan Vaidyanathan (South Zone), Dr. A. N. Roy (East Zone), Dr. Sadanand Naik (West Zone) & Shivani Pandey (Central Zone).

Awards:

Winners of ACBI Fellowships and Awards, 2018

ACBI Fellowship Award (FACBI)

1. Dr. Seema Bhargava, Chairperson and Senior Consultant, Department of Biochemistry & Professor, GRPMER, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

2. Dr. Poornima Manjrekar, Professor & Head, Department Of Biochemistry, Centre for Basic Sciences, Manipal Medical College, Mangalore.

3. ACBI- A. J. THAKUR DISTINGUISHED CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS AWARD

4. Dr. Jayshree Bhattacharya, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi.

5. ACBI Oration Awards, 2018

AWADHESH SARAN MEMORIAL ORATION

Dr. Howard Morris, President, IFCC. Professor of Medical Sciences, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia. “Healthcare, Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care”

SETH G. S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & KEM HOSPITAL ORATION

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Department of Biochemistry, Postgraduate of Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, “Alcoholic Liver Disease: Pathogenesis, Biochemical Markers and Treatment”

DR T. N. PATTABIRAMAN ORATION AWARD
Dr. Subrata Sinha, Professor & Head, Departments of Biochemistry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi,

"Molecular reclassification of disease; how the laboratory can guide the clinic"

K. L. GUPTA MEMORIAL ORATION
Dr. Anupama S. Borkar, Consultant, Department of Medical & Paediatric Oncology, Goa Medical College & Hospital, Panjim, Goa. "Cancer in children"

MRS. & DR. G. P. TALWAR ORATION AWARD
Prof. P. Kaliraj, ICMR Emeritus Medical Scientist at Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai. “Development and evaluation of effective diagnostics prophylactics and drug targets for neglected parasitic diseases with filariasis as model”

TARANATH MEMORIAL POPULAR LECTURE ORATION AWARD
Dr. Kaushal K. Srivastava, Indian National Academy of Stress Sciences, New Delhi, India. “I want to be Happy”

OTHER AWARDS

K.P. SINHA – P.S. KRISHNAN AWARD FOR BEST PAPER PUBLISHED IN IJCB (2018):


Pitabus – Jamuna Burma Memorial Award
Dr Prasenjit Mitra, AIIMS, Jodhpur – “25-Hydroxy Cholecalciferol (25-OH Vitamin D3) status in Patients of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus.”

DR SITA DEVI AWARD
Dr. Anu Jain, PGIMER, Chandigarh
“Identification and validation of potential salivary biomarker(s) for Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC) by analysis of salivary proteome”

NIMS BEST POSTER AWARD:

(1) CANCER : Dr. Malavika L. (AIIMS, Jodhpur)
“Expression and significance of oncogenic MIRNA-21 & MIR-17 in breast carcinoma patients undergoing chemotherapy”

(2) NON-CANCER : Dr. Pilla VSN Kiran Kumar (AIIMS, Jodhpur)
“Association of serum zinc and blood lead levels with brain derived neurotrophic factors in schizophrenia”

P. S. MURTHY AWARD FOR BEST POSTER:
(1) DRUG DEVELOPMENT FROM PLANT SOURCES
No award

(2) INFECTIOUS DISEASES – Sojit Tomo (JIPMER)
“Dynamic modulation of FCRYR2A receptors expression on platelets in dengue”
(3) CARDIO VASCULAR DISEASES
Mamta P. Sumi (Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi)
"Clinical importance of ESR1-397t>c gene polymorphism and its expression pattern in coronary artery disease patients."

(4) DIABETES
Shrimanjunath Sankanagoudar (AIIMS, Jodhpur)
"Assessment of urinary amino acid levels and their excretory pattern in individuals of type 2 diabetes mellitus: A newer index of hyperglycemia and insulin resistance"

MGIMS (Sewagram) Award
Debadyuti Sahu (KGMC, Lucknow)
"Matrix Metalloproteinases As Early Diagnostic and Prognostic Biomarkers for Dengue Infections: A Comparative Study among Adult and Pediatric Cases."

Dr. P. Usha Sarma Best Poster Award in Genomic Proteonomic sciences – Clinical Application
1. Abmreen Asim (SGPGI, Lucknow)
   "Segmental Duplication – Quantitative Fluorescent PCR: A novel method for aneuploidy detection in India."

AFMC Quiz
First Prize (Joint) – Debadyuti Sahu – KGMC, Lucknow
Balakrishna – (Narayan Medical College, Nellore)
Second prize – Nitin Tyagi – (VMCC & Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi)
Mukul Sharma – (AFMC, Pune)

ACBI YOUNG SCIENTISTS BURSARY AWARD
1. Dr. Anu Jain – PGIMER, Chandigarh
2. Viveka M – JIPMER, Puducherry

ACBI TRAVEL AWARD:
1. Dr. Prasenjit Mitra – AIIMS, Jodhpur
2. Dr. Parul Kamboj – PGIMER, Chandigarh
3. Divika Sapehia – PGIMER, Chandigarh
4. Mamta P. Sumi – MAMC, Delhi
5. Dr Prerna K. Chawla, (P. D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mumbai)

The next Annual conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India will be held at Jaipur, from 24th to 27th November 2019 in conjunction with the 5th APFCB Congress. More news would appear on website: www.acbindia.org.
Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)

Education activities for the year carried on with presentations by distinguished academia and scientists. One workshop was organized in the second half year of 2018. This evening workshop titled ‘IQC Implementation and Interpretation’ and the following 4 topics were included:

1. QC and Troubleshooting Experience in CPLC, DH by Mr Kar Chi Shiu, Department of Health

2. Implementation of Quality Control in LC-MS Laboratory by Dr Richard Kam, Prince of Wales Hospital

3. QC monitoring of specialized tests in PWH by Dr Iris Chan, Prince of Wales Hospital

4. Implementation and Monitoring of QC in POCT by Mr Yun Chuen Lo, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

The event was well attended by over 183 members and guests.

Evening workshop on 22 November 2018: Mr. Kar Chi Shiu, Dr Richard Kam, Dr Iris Chan and Mr Yun Chuen Lo
Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)

A brief Introduction to The Laboratory for Advanced Lipid Analysis

Rojeet Shrostha, PhD, Shu-Ping Hui, MD, PhD

Faculty of Health Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060-0812, Japan

Clinical chemistry and lab medicine play a crucial role in today’s clinical practice and continue to exert significant impact on better health care. Research and education in the field of laboratory medicine are essential keys to success to meet future requirements. The Laboratory for Advanced Lipid Analysis (LALA) located at Faculty of Health Sciences of Hokkaido University operates with these core values to improve the research and education in clinical chemistry. Our research generally focuses on biomarker discovery and its clinical efficacy to provide evidence-based decisions for guiding laboratory practice. We also work to improve diagnostic methods and techniques for better health care through laboratory medicine.

Faculty of Health Sciences at Hokkaido University enroll 35–40 students in its Medical Technology undergraduate program annually to specially train them to work as medical laboratory scientists. As today’s young laboratory scientists are the pillar of future’s laboratory medicine, we provide sufficient academic and research mentorship to our students helping them to build up their career as a medical technologist with sound knowledge in current practice and recent advances in laboratory medicine.

LALA is equipped with a broad range of instruments that are crucial for biochemical, cytological and molecular analysis. Our students can take full advance of the advanced technological resources in LALA including but not limited to TSQ Quantum Access MAX Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer, Finnigan LXQ Mass Spectrometer, LTQ Hybrid Ion Trap–Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer, MFP–3D BIO Atomic Force Microscope, Electrochemical Analyzer, Clinical Chemistry Analyzer, HPLC, Molecular Interaction Analyzer, Microplate reader, and other equipment for cell experiments. In the current academic year, 9 undergraduate students, 7 research students, and 5 post-graduate students from various countries are being trained in our laboratory.

We have 12 dynamic faculty members from various foreign countries including China, Taiwan, Nepal, and Egypt.

They are of diverse academic background with a broad range of research interests that includes lipids and lipoproteins, oxidative stress and antioxidants, molecular and cell biology, food and toxicology, physical and analytical chemistry, and clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The laboratory is chaired by Prof Shu-Ping Hui, a well-known figure in the analysis of various lipid hydroperoxides.
So far, she has over 70 peer-reviewed articles in the reputed journals and has a profound impact in the field of lipid chemistry and oxidative biomarkers of lipid metabolism.

![Figure 1: Laboratory staffs and students](image1)

![Figure 2: The Laboratory for Advanced Lipid Analysis (LALA).](image2)

Research at LALA is mainly focused on the analysis of lipids and related metabolites which are otherwise unanalyzable in ordinary laboratories, including atherosclerosis/ inflammation–related lipid peroxides and oxidized lipoproteins, brain function–related phospholipids like plasmalogen, antioxidants in food and potentially useful emerging lipids like medium–chain fatty acids. Lipids are ubiquitous in the human body playing diverse physiological functions but are equally associated with numerous diseases and some of which are of global health problem in today’s clinical practice.
LALA has been investigating various lipid molecules robustly not only to understand its involvement in the pathogenesis of diseases but also its role in the diagnosis and risk stratification. We are first to report several molecular species of lipids hydroperoxides and its association in diseases like diabetes and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). We also dedicated to identifying novel bioactive compounds in functional food that are beneficial for human health and disease. We discovered an antioxidant called 3,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzyl alcohol (DHMBA) from Pacific oyster that shows antioxidant properties superior to existing antioxidants like vitamin C and chlorogenic acids. We have also reported a novel method for detecting oxidized low-density lipoproteins (LDL) using carbon nanotube.

Currently, our research interests are mainly focused on study and analysis of lipids and its metabolites using advanced research tools like LTQ Orbitrap mass spectrometer, mass imaging, Atomic force microscopy, immunoassays, molecular assay, cell and animal experiments. We are truly dedicated to serve the society with discoveries through our cutting-edge research that can significantly improve the health care. Our work has been appreciated with various awards at national and international level.

Our laboratory members were able to secure several prestigious international awards like Cooper Award from American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), Young Investigator Award from International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), Young Scientist Award from Asia–Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB), Egypt State Encouragement Award, etc.
Finally, our laboratory is actively involved in the activities of various academic societies related to clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. Each year our staffs and students contribute to various academic session in the annual meeting of Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC). Director of our laboratory, Prof Hitoshi Chiba chaired and organized the 57th Annual Meeting of the JSCC in 2017. The event offered 3 days of extensive educational activities that include 2 keynote lectures, 9 educational lectures, 13 symposiums/workshops, 12 luncheon seminars, 3 evening seminars, and 163 poster presentations. Over 700 participants enjoyed the academic sessions designed to cover diverse areas of clinical chemistry that gives up to date information to improve health care through laboratory medicine.
Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)

Annual Reports of Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC) 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Meetings</th>
<th>Name of the meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</table>
Symposium 2. Industry-sponsored symposium about CDT, blood viscosity test and PHI  
Plenary lecture. Healthcare technology assessment and blockchain  
Symposium 3. Assessment and management of the point-of-care (POC) glucose test  
Symposium 4. Current knowledge of blood gas testing  
Workshop 1. Current status and functioning of clinical mass spectrometry  
Workshop 2. Preparation of a TDM advisory report and practical session |
Symposium 2. Calibration, A to Z (from basics to application)  
Symposium 3. Interferents affecting laboratory measurements  
Symposium 4. Standardization of enzyme assays  
Workshop 1. Clinical laboratory application of mass spectrometry  
Workshop 2. TDM reports for patients with renal impairment |

Education

1. Laboratory quality management  
2. Carbohydrate deficient transferring (CDT)  
3. Blood viscosity test  
4. Prostate health index (PHI)  
5. Healthcare technology assessment and blockchain  
6. POC glucose testing  
7. Blood gas testing  
8. Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM)  
9. Calibration principle  
10. Interfering materials on laboratory measurements  
11. Standardization of enzyme assays  
12. Clinical mass spectrometry
### Regional relations

One council member for International Affairs in KSCC has the correspondence activity for the international (IFCC) or for the regional (APFCB) works. KSCC will send the 2018 annual report to APFCB by February 4, 2019.

### International relations

1> KSCC was delegated of logistics of authority from IFCC–TSIC to facilitate participation in the TSIC (Turning Science into Caring Symposium).

2> KSCC fostered the KSCC members to attend TSIC.

3> KSCC (7 KSCC members) attended TSIC.

4> President Jeong–Ho Kim participated in the IFCC General Conference 2018. He presented and introduced the IFCC WorldLab SEOUL 2020, there.

5> KSCC is participating in the IFCC Network Laboratory for HbA1c in Korea.

### Additional informations: The Officer Bearer of KSCC (2019)

1> President : Prof. Jeong–Ho Kim  
(Yonsei University College of Medicine, Severance Hospital)  
Email: kscc1111@gmail.com, jeonghokim.sss@gmail.com, jeongho@yuhs.ac

2> Secretary General : Prof. Hyung–Doo Park  
(Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Samsung Medical Center)  
Email: nayahyung@gmail.com, navadoo@hanmail.net

3> Treasurer : Dr. Sung Eun Cho  
(LabGenomics Clinical Laboratories)  
Email: secho0824@gmail.com

4> International Committee : Prof. Sang–Guk Lee  
(Yonsei University College of Medicine, Severance Hospital)  
Email: comforter6@yuhs.ac

5> Secretary : Ms. Anna Choi  
Office Address: A1105–Asterium Seoul, 372 Hangang–daero, Yongsan–gu, Seoul, 04323, Republic of Korea / Email: kscc@kscc.or.kr

6> Official Email of KSCC : kscc1111@gmail.com
After the completion of the Human Genome Project, the direction of the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases began to enter a new stage, namely Next Generation Medicine based on Precision Medicine. All medical aspects, including the clinical laboratory are required to be able to follow these developments. These changes include exploration and development of various new biomarkers based on genomic, transcriptomic or proteomic as well as refinement of the inspection methodology to the implementation of improved Quality Assurance qualifications as good laboratory standards. The Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry as a forum for experts who have clinical chemistry competency in developing laboratory aspects has the responsibility to participate in and initiate this change in Indonesia. For this reason, it is necessary to conduct a work conference with symposiums and workshops in order to accommodate, mediate, initiate and synergize the renewal of knowledge from each clinical laboratory based expertise in Indonesia from various experts to suit these changes. In the work conference, we held symposiums and workshops those will discuss the development of reproductive aspects, infections, geriatrics and oncology and various other disciplines. With the convening of work conferences, symposiums and workshops are expected to spur various fundamental changes in the work process in the laboratory to become pioneers in the development of the concept of clinical laboratories in line with the renewal of diagnosis and treatment based on Next Generation Medicine.
Some Board Member of IACC and Congress Chairwoman took picture after Work Conference in Bali, 21 July 2018

Seminar and Workshop Molecular Diagnostic, Jakarta, 30 Nov 2018
IACC in cooperation with Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathologist and Laboratory Medicine (IACP) held a Seminar and Workshop on Molecular with topic Application of PCR to Infection and Cancer. The participants for Seminar around 100 people such as Clinical Pathologist Doctors, Lab Scientist and Medical Technologist. The participants of Workshop 26 people.

SEMINAR:
Basic Molecular Diagnostics
Moderator: Dr. Sri Hartini, SpPK (K), MARS
1. Introduction to Molecular Diagnostics: From Cell to DNA
Speaker: Dr. Lyana Setiawan, SpPK
2. The Key Concept of Nucleic Acid Extraction
Speaker: Dr. Yusra, SpPK, Ph.D
3. Conventional and Real Time PCR
Speaker: Dr. Dennis Jacobus, SpPK
4. Application of PCR in Infectious Disease
Speaker: Dr. Dewi Lokida, SpPK
5. Application of PCR in Cancer
Speaker: Dr. Demak L Tobing, SpPK
6. Standardization and Quality Control in Molecular Diagnostics
Speaker: Miswar Fattah, SSi, MBiomed, PhD

WORKSHOP:
1. Introduction
2. DNA Isolation
3. RNA Isolation
4. Automatic RNA extraction and PCR
5. HPV genotyping
6. Interpretation of Real–Time PCR Results
4. **Workshop Total Value Ownership**

IACC held Workshop in Laboratory Management, The topic for this occasion is Total Value Ownership. The speaker is Patrick Gontard Group CEO, Labexa Group, France; CEO and Founder, Gontard and Cie, Switzerland. We held the Workshop cooperated with Abbott Diagnostics in Jakarta. We invited some Clinical Laboratory CEOs, COOs and Managers to discuss about business aspect of Clinical Laboratory.

In today’s healthcare environment, leaders are increasingly asked to demonstrate value in terms of operational and clinical care excellence across their healthcare institution. The clinical laboratory is viewed as an important contributor to key performance indicators, and as a result, laboratory managers want to maximize the value that the laboratory brings to their institutions. The concept of Total Value of Ownership (TVO) considers all aspects of a laboratory’s processes and equipment and identifies areas where improvements can be made to maximize value. When the laboratory delivers services to its full potential, it can help improve outcomes system-wide, enabling the institution to make a positive impact on patient outcomes.
Macao Laboratory Medicine Association (MLMA)

Council
President – YM Raja Dr Elina Raja Aziddin
Vice President – YM Tengku Marinah Ashraf Tunku Abdullah
Secretary – Dr Mohd Jokha Yahya
Assistant Secretary – Ms Sivasangkari Supremaniam
Treasurer – Mdm Chen Bee Chin
Members – Dr Badrul Amini Abdul Rashid
Mdm Chuo Pek Ham
    Ms Vani Munusamy
    Ms Roziela A Bakar

Committee Chairs
Scientific – YM Raja Dr Elina Raja Aziddin
MACB CKD Task Force – Dr Leslie Charles Lai
Education – YM Tengku Marinah Ashraf Tunku Abdullah
Publicatio & Publicity – Mr Firdaus Aziz
Corporate – Mdm Norhazwati Mokhrar
MACB Journal – Dr Badrul Amini Abdul Rashid

Activities in 2018

29th MACB Conference 2018
The MACB annual conference was held from 9–10 July 2018 in Premiera Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The conference was attended by 250 participants from all over Malaysia. The conference had 6 plenary lectures, 3 Symposia, 4 educational workshops, oral papers, poster presentations and a trade exhibition. Topics discussed include biomarkers in pre-eclampsia, eGFR reporting, therapeutic drug monitoring, patient moving averages, tumour makers, HCV, POCT, laboratory errors, use of big data, laboratory medicine for the elderly, pre analytical and drugs of abuse. A one-day pre-conference workshop on Chemical Health Risk Assessment which include lectures and case studies was held on 8 July 2018.
2) Seminars

In 2018, the MACB organised three seminars that were supported by the industry.

A seminar on the topic of National HbA1c & Thalassemia Conference 2018: The Diagnostic Challenge was organised on 13 March 2018 at Taman Teknologi Malaysia. This seminar was attended by 347 participants from all over the country. It was jointly organised by MACB and Hospital Ampang and supported by Chemopharm Sdn Bhd.

A symposium entitled Pre-analytical Symposium: The Role of Quality Management in Pre-analytical Improvement was carried out on 24th April 2018 at The Gardens Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. This event was organized by Becton Dickinson (BD) Malaysia in collaboration with the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists. This symposium was aimed at providing relevant and updated information as well as providing avenue for discussion on the importance of quality indicators and quality monitoring in the pre-analytical phase to ensure the best clinical outcome for patients. Various international speakers and key opinion leaders were invited to speak on this topic. A total of 104 participants attended this symposium. The participants were from various public, private, academic and commercial institutions. A seminar on Point of Care Testing (POCT) - Arterial Blood Gas was carried out on 3 September 2018 at Royale Chulan, Seremban. This seminar was organised by MACB in collaboration between Siemens Healthcare Sdn Bhd and Malaysian Diagnostics Corporation Sdn Bhd.

The objective of the seminar was to update all healthcare professionals on blood gas testing best practice and latest technology. Thirty five (35) participants comprising of healthcare professionals and laboratory personnel from government hospitals attended the seminar.

3) Research

A reference range study to determine the reference values of the Malaysian population that commenced end of 2017 was continued in 2018. Four institutions namely University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), UKM Medical Centre (Pusat Perubatan University Kebangsaan Malaysia- PPUKM), Pantai Premier Pathology and Kuala Lumpur Hospital were involved in the project.
A total of 615 subjects were recruited for this study, their age ranging from 18 to 65. Samples were collected from Nov 2017 to August 2018. Reagents for the project were supported by Siemens Healthcare Sdn Bhd and Abbott Laboratories (M) Sdn Bhd, Becton Dickinson and blood collection tubes by Becton Dickinson Sdn Bhd. The project also received a small funding from Professor Ichihara’s research grant. Testing of the samples were done in 3 centres – UKM Medical Centre, UMMC and Pantai Premier Pathology, and was completed in November 2018.

4) Task Force

A MACB CKD-Task Force was set up in December 2017 to look into the national standardization of eGFR estimation in Malaysia. The group comprise of members from Ministry of Health Hospitals, UMMC, PPUKM and Pantai Premier Pathology and is headed by Dr Leslie Lai. In working towards the standardization of eGFR in Malaysia, the MACB carried out a 3 months national survey in 2018 to determine how eGFR and urine albumin/protein are reported by laboratories in Malaysia. Upon completion of this survey, the committee came up with recommendations and this was presented during 28th MACB Conference 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.

The recommendations were well received by the audience and is currently under review by the Ministry of Health Chemical Pathology group.

5) Training

The MACB had long recognized the need for skills training for Clinical Biochemists in the country. In 2018 the training activity of the association was focussed on preparing for skills training and professional certification of biochemists. The curriculum had been prepared by members of MACB under the National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS), which is a program under the Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia.
The Exam board was set up in 2018 and two institutions namely Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Pantai Premier Pathology were selected as skill training centres. On 22 October 2018, the MACB organised a one-day NOSS induction training for coaches, trainers and management personnel that was attended by 30 participants.

6) Publicity and Communication

In 2018 the MACB introduced on-line membership registration. It also made available on line registration to its conferences, seminars and training courses. Activities of the MACB activities is continuously updated on the MACB website at http://www.macb.org.my

7) MACB’s participation in international Conferences / Scientific Meetings

MACB participated in the IFCC General Conference that was held in Budapest, Hungary on 9–11 November 2018. The MACB was represented by the president and a council member.
Professor DM Vasudevan – Golden Jubilee Celebration of an Illustrious Academic Career

by Kannan Vaidyanathan

Prof. DM Vasudevan celebrated 50 years of academic achievement this year. His entry into the academic world began as a tutor in biochemistry, in 1968, at the Government Medical College in Calicut (now Kozhikode), Kerala, and India. Following that, he achieved several prestigious milestones in his illustrious career. Among them were the Dr. BC Roy Award for Best Medical Teacher from the President of India in 1992, and various other national and state awards. The first edition of his internationally acclaimed textbook of biochemistry was published in 1995. So far, more than 1 million copies have been sold worldwide and it has been translated to many international languages. The 9th edition of this textbook is presently under preparation.

The Jubilee Mission Medical College & Research Center (JMMC&RC) in Trichur, Kerala, conducted a program on 9th March 2019 to felicitate Prof. Vasudevan for his lifetime achievements. The program was from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and this was followed by a Continuing Medical Education program in biochemistry. Rev. Fr. Tijo Joy Mullakkara, Asst. Director, JMMC&RC, welcomed the gathering. Prof. Kannan Vaidyanathan, co-author of the aforementioned textbook presented a sketch of Prof. Vasudevan’s life, in pictures. The presentation showcased the life of Prof. Vasudevan from birth to the present-day. Rev. Fr. Francis Pallikkunath, Director, JMMC&RC gave the presidential address. Among other things, he highlighted the simple dignity of Prof. Vasudevan in his brief speech. His Grace Mar Andrews Thazhath, The Metropolitan Arch Bishop of Trichur, inaugurated the program with his verbal tribute to Prof. Vasudevan followed by lighting of the lamp and adorning Prof. and Mrs. (Devi) Vasudevan with “ponnada” (ritualistic dress). Keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. MV Pillai, Clinical Professor of Oncology at the Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA. He highlighted Prof. Vasudevan’s contribution to Indian science and noted that had he worked in a developed nation, he would have been awarded the Nobel Prize. The Postal Department of India marked the occasion with the release of a special stamp to honor Prof. Vasudevan, which was introduced to the audience day by Dr. Praveenlal Kuttichira, Principal, and JMMC & C. Many of Prof. Vasudevan’s 30–odd PhD students who were present at the gathering then offered him a floral “guruvandanam” (tribute to teacher).
Dr. TV Kumari, a former student, and retired scientist Sree Chithir Tirunal of the Institute of Medical Science & Technology, Trivandrum, were among those who felicitated Prof. Vasudevan. Others who came to honour him included Dr. Sreekumari S, retired Professor of Biochemistry and co-author of his textbook and senior professors from many parts of India.

Following this, Prof. Vasudevan gave his return address. Starting with his college days, through his post-graduate and the time spent days in Switzerland as a post-doctoral fellow, he paid a touching tribute to the many teachers who had helped him shape and achieve his career goals. He also credited his many illustrious students for their part in his achievements. Prof. Vasudevan stressed that lack of funding or facilities should not be deterrent from doing research – “Where there is a will, there is a way!” he emphasized. The entire speech showcased his humility and dedication, and gave us all an insight of a remarkable life. The audience of eminent academicians enjoyed the festive atmosphere of the celebration. The program ended with Prof. PR Varghese, Research Coordinator at JMMC&RC, who offered a vote of thanks on behalf of all present. (Professor DM Vasudevan is a past President of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India. Dr. Kannan Vaidyanathan is Professor of Biochemistry at the Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Science, Tiruvalla, Kerala, India)
Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with deep regret that I notify the passing of Professor Howard Morris, our current President of the IFCC. Howard passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in Kazakhstan, where he was on official IFCC work as a travelling lecturer.

Howard is well known to many within the APFCB and around the world. His involvement with the APFCB spans many years and he was the APFCB Chair of the Scientific Committee in the 2002 period.

Howard was a diligent and committed person and he worked continuously over the last fifteen months as President of the IFCC, travelling and reaching out across the globe. He had wonderful ideas and plans and was always enthusiastic about seeing these through. Everyone who worked with him could see his passion.

I will remember Howard for his rich understanding of history. He often shared his knowledge during casual conversations. Howard also had a wonderful sense of humour and his loud and booming laughter often filled the room during meals.

On behalf of the APFCB, I also want to send my sincere condolences to Helen Martin, our current Secretary of the APFCB. It is difficult to imagine her loss and we keep Helen and the family in prayers.

Sunil Sethi
President APFCB
20 April 2019
Charming Ancient Water Town after Snow-Fall
By Dr Tan It Koon (APFCB, Founding President)

In the picturesque south of the Yangtze River region in China known as the Jiangnan area, there are many rivers, lakes and canals, where a number of historical towns are located close to the water. Boats are the most convenient mode of transportation as the front or back doors of most houses are situated right beside the waterways where steps with platforms are specially created for washing of clothes and for ready access or anchoring of small boats. Three major cities, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou form a pyramid-shaped area known as the “Venice of the East”. Many water towns around the inter-linking complex canal systems have existed for several hundred years. Here, locals and tourists still travel around by hand-controlled boats. Sometimes, the man or woman in charge of the boat-rides would offer to sing local traditional Chinese folk songs to entertain and introduce local culture to foreign visitors. Most of the houses in the water towns are two or three-storey buildings constructed in rows, with narrow streets for cyclists and pedestrians in between. Although they were built mostly of wood and stones or bricks, it is amazing that they were able to withstand the ravages of time and still remain in condition suited for living, although some have undergone recent renovation or re-construction.

Most of the ground floors of the houses are used as shop spaces for business, displaying and selling a variety of local agricultural produces, food and handicrafts unique to the place. The upper floors are for residential occupation. Some of the houses which belonged to wealthy merchants and their descendants have highly intricate and decorative carvings on the wooden windows, doors, balconies, screens and pillars which remain in excellent conditions. They must have become valuable antiques by now. Few of the richest property owners whose ancestors served as high government officials in ancient China have large compounds with beautifully maintained private gardens and even lotus ponds! There are many strategically placed stone bridges of varied design to facilitate crossing of the many canals and rivers. Together with willow and various flowering trees planted beside the canals, they provide a beautiful scene for artists and students of art to capture on paper or canvas, and for visitors to share the lovely views with their friends through their cameras.

This painting captures the scene of a water town by the lake after a snowfall. The roofs of houses, and top of trees and shrubs are covered with a thick layer of white snow. At two ground-floor shops, some business transaction activities are taking place. Two pedestrians in blue walk are shown walking by and a boat man is steering his boat through the opening below a stone bridge to join his friend on another boat on the open lake.