

Greetings and Farewell note of the EFLM President

Dear Colleagues, and Friends,

It has been a great honour and privilege for me to serve the EFLM community as the President of the EFLM during the term 2022 and 2023. Throughout my tenure, my commitment has been focused on maintaining the EFLM's position as the leading organization representing Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

Assuming a leadership role, together with other motivated members of the EFLM Executive Board and EFLM officers, my main focus was directed towards strengthening the solid foundations of the Federation. Our work was to identify new opportunities and strategies, enabling Laboratory Medicine to exert its crucial role in patient care.



Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben, EuSpLM, Ph.D., Specialist in Medical Biochemistry (2022-2023)

In recent years, EFLM activities have experienced steady growth through collaborative efforts with EFLM national societies and, in vitro diagnostic (IVD) industry partners. They joined actively to EFLM in its endeavours, working together to share comments, suggestions, and challenges and to strengthen the leadership role of EFLM in advancing laboratory medicine as well as in improving the quality of healthcare and medical laboratories in Europe.

The significance of EFLM's services and contributions to the enhancement of Laboratory Medicine is widely acknowledged. This remarkable success to building, growing, and promoting laboratory medicine is attributed to the voluntary service, dedicated effort, and time generously provided by over 200 laboratory scientists from member societies working across various EFLM Functional Units. I extend my gratitude to the EFLM officers and member societies for their continuous support, loyalty, and invaluable contributions that have enabled the successful completion of numerous EFLM tasks and projects. My sincere thanks to all of them, as well as to the EFLM Executive Board members and Silvia & Terry (Silvia Cattaneo and Silvia Terragni) for their exceptional capacity, enthusiasm and efforts in efficiently managing the hard-daily work of EFLM and EFLM office.

Now, I confidently pass the torch of EFLM to my successor, Prof. Mario Plebani, 2024-2025 EFLM President. With his wisdom and leadership, I have no doubt, he will steer our federation through new challenges and towards new achievements.



Photo 1. EFLM bursaries ceremony at the EFLM booth during WorldLab-EuroMedLab, May 2023, Rome, Italy.

Listed below are some of the important EFLM activities, achievements and projects developed and established during the past two years (2022-2023).

3rd EFLM Strategic Conference

The 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference entitled “**SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES. How to implement IVDR, Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices in Medical Laboratories**” was held from 25th to 27th May 2022.

According to the EFLM Procedure Manual, the preparation of the EFLM Strategic Conference is initiated under the coordination of the President-Elect. So, I initiated the preparations for the 3rd Scientific Conference, consulting and collaborating with the EFLM officers and EFLM national societies. The objective was to create an inspirational and exceptional program, which included the careful selection of cutting-edge and innovative topics, as well as identifying and inviting new expert speakers and scientific chairs.

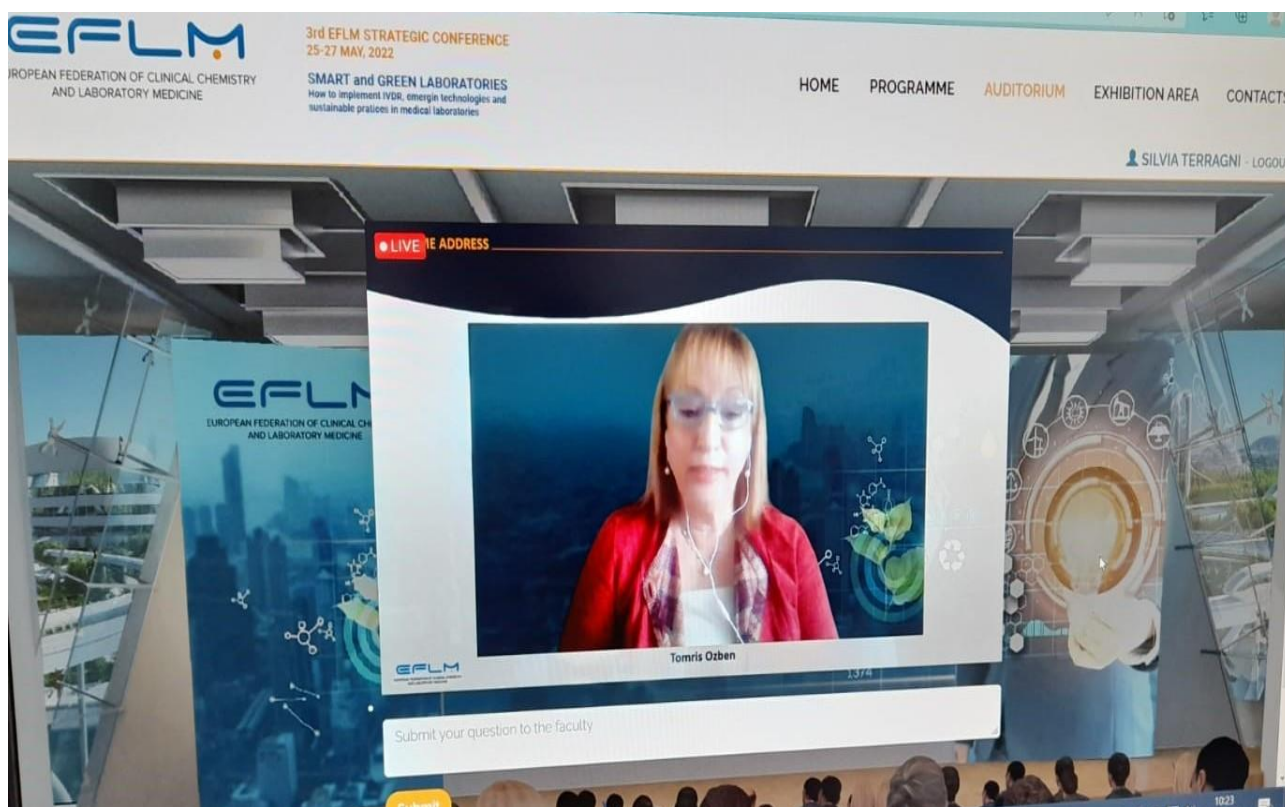


Photo 2. 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference entitled “**SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES. How to implement IVDR, Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices in Medical Laboratories**”, May 25-27, 2022.

The aim of the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference was to address and discuss recent developments and challenges in our profession focusing on important aspects in Laboratory Medicine in which some strategic actions/measures should be taken. The Strategic Conference resulted in the establishment of several EFLM Task Forces (TFs) and Working Groups (WGs) dedicated to the key themes of the Strategic Conference and also developing and identifying EFLM Strategic Actions Plans for 2022 and 2023.

More than 1000 scientists, 60 Speakers and Session Chairs registered and attended the Conference. The 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference was a unique opportunity for all the stakeholders to learn, understand and question the direction of Laboratory Medicine in Europe and worldwide.

Despite the online format necessitated by the pandemic, the Conference program was designed to be interactive allowing sufficient time for discussions. More in the spirit of strategic thinking: what are the problems now, what should we strive for in the future, where should our focus be, how can we achieve this, and how can we implement revolutionary ideas to take us forward. All presentations, discussions, networking, and the exhibition were found to be rewarding and valuable by the participants.

Outstanding expert speakers, and global opinion leaders from the different fields of laboratory medicine, in vitro diagnostics (IVD) industry, digital health, medical devices, and representatives from the MedTech Europe attended the conference to present the latest innovations in laboratory medicine, in healthcare, diagnostic technologies and scientific advances in all disciplines relevant to laboratory medicine.

A panel of experts discussed what is needed to succeed in this changing environment and the role of collaboration between industry, public, private, and academic drivers of innovation. Their feedback, active participation, and engagement during the open discussion platform at Conference were crucial and duly considered in advancing laboratory medicine and shaping the future of our profession.

A special issue of **Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)** was dedicated to the lectures and contributions presented at the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference.

EFLM Strategic Action Plans (2022-2023)

I firmly believe that advancing healthcare through Laboratory Medicine relies on the active engagement of the EFLM National Societies and EFLM Functional Units. Therefore, in consultation with the EFLM Executive Board, EFLM Functional Units and EFLM National Societies, I tried to develop the Strategic Action Plans following the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference according to the suggestions, comments, and criticisms. The final version of the Strategic Action Plan 2022-2023 was approved by the EFLM Executive Board and subsequently shared with all Functional Units and National Society members.

I express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to everybody for their dedicated involvement in formulating the EFLM Strategic Action Plans. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in steering our profession toward the objectives outlined in the [EFLM Strategic Action Plans](#) implemented in 2022-2023. The EFLM Strategic Action Plan comprise four main sections, encompassing a total of 29 items, outlined as follows:

- **Structure and Organization - 6 Items**
- **Relation with Other Organization- 9 Items**
- **Profession, Education and Training, Communication - 9 Items**
- **Scientific Affairs - 5 Items**

The new EFLM Functional Units (2022-2023)

17 new EFLM Functional Units were established in 2022 and 2023. I am particularly proud of the dedicated work of their members.

1. **Task Force: Green and Sustainable Laboratories (TF-GSL)**
<https://greenlabs.eflm.eu/>
2. **Task Force: Preparation of Labs for Emergencies (TF-PLE)**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1819>
3. **Task Force: Direct-to-Consumer Testing (TF-DTCT)**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1823>
4. **Task Force: EFLM Continuing Professional Education Credit System for the accreditation of continuing education events (TF-EFLM CPECS®)**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1775>
5. **Working Group: Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI)**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1766>
6. **Task Group: Integrated Diagnostics - a New Interdisciplinary Frontier**
<https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1829>
7. **Task & Finish Group: Biomarkers of Diagnosis and Follow-up of Nitrous Oxide Abuse**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1832>
8. **Working Group: Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI)**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1837>
9. **Task Group: Chronic Kidney Disease**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1768>
10. **Working Group: Harmonisation**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1152>
11. **Working Group: Postanalytical Phase**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1155>
12. **Task Group: Practical Guide to Implement Measurement Uncertainty in Laboratory Medicine**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1594>
13. **Working Group: Test Evaluation**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1158>
14. **Task Group: European Lab Day**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1520>
15. **Task Group: Young Scientists**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1725>
16. **Working Group: Distance Education and e-Learning**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1133>
17. **Working Group: Ethics**
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1867>

New Corporate membership status in EFLM addressed to IVD Companies

Individual IVD, biomedical and pharmaceutical companies, corporate entities and research establishments play a great role for our profession of Laboratory Medicine. For this reason, it is crucial to establish concrete links with companies, ensuring alignment in all decision-making processes and enhancing communication and collaboration between industry and laboratory professionals.

This rationale has prompted me to propose to the EFLM Executive Board the introduction of a new membership status specifically tailored for the Corporate Members (CMs). This proposal underwent thorough and careful discussion during the EFLM Executive Board meeting held in Rome on May 21, 2023, and it was unanimously agreed by the EFLM EB

members that it presented a valuable opportunity for EFLM to establish direct communication channels with the IVD industry.

Subsequently, the proposal was brought to the attention of the EFLM General Meeting, the governing body of EFLM, which met in a meeting held on September 7th, 2023. 35 Full National Societies Members and 3 Affiliate National Societies Members (these latter ones with an observer status) were present at the extraordinary General Meeting. A unanimous and affirmative vote was cast in favour of incorporating the new Corporate Membership status into EFLM and subsequently amending the EFLM Articles of Association to accommodate the necessary changes.

A call was launched to receive the applications of IVD, biomedical, and pharmaceutical companies, corporate entities, and research establishments operating in the Laboratory Medicine field. Their applications were evaluated by the EFLM Executive Board and submitted to the EFLM General Meeting (GM) for a final decision: on November 23, 2023, GM approved the CM applications of the IVD companies. Congratulations to the IVD companies on achieving EFLM Corporate membership status!



Photo 3. MedTech Forum 2023, 30 May - 1 June 2023, Dublin, Ireland.

Closer collaborations with EFLM National Societies

As the EFLM President, I was invited to attend many National Congresses of EFLM National Societies, providing me with the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the EFLM and NSs.

In the frame of the EFLM initiative “Invite an EFLM Executive Member at your National Congress”, I attended the following congresses:

1. SWEDEN - Jonkoping, 20-22 September 2022 - Annual Meeting for Clinical Chemistry
2. SLOVAK REPUBLIC - Demanovska Dolina, 9-11 October 2022 - XIV Congress of Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry
3. UNITED KINGDOM - London, 8-9 November 2022 - UKMedLab22.
4. FRANCE - Paris, 1-2 December 2022 - JIB 2022
5. PORTUGAL - Porto, 14-15 April 2023 - 5th Scientific Meeting of the Portuguese Society of Laboratory Medicine

I also visited several other EFLM National Societies outside the framework of this EFLM initiative. I extend my sincere gratitude to them for the gracious invitation to speak at their National Congresses and for their warm hospitality.



Photo 4. Selected photos from some National Society Congresses I attended.



Photo 5. International Lecture Award talk at UKMedLab 2022, November 8 – 10, 2022, London, United Kingdom.



Photo 6. Welcome address and announcement of EFLM awards at EuroMedLab, April 10th, 2022, Munich, Germany.

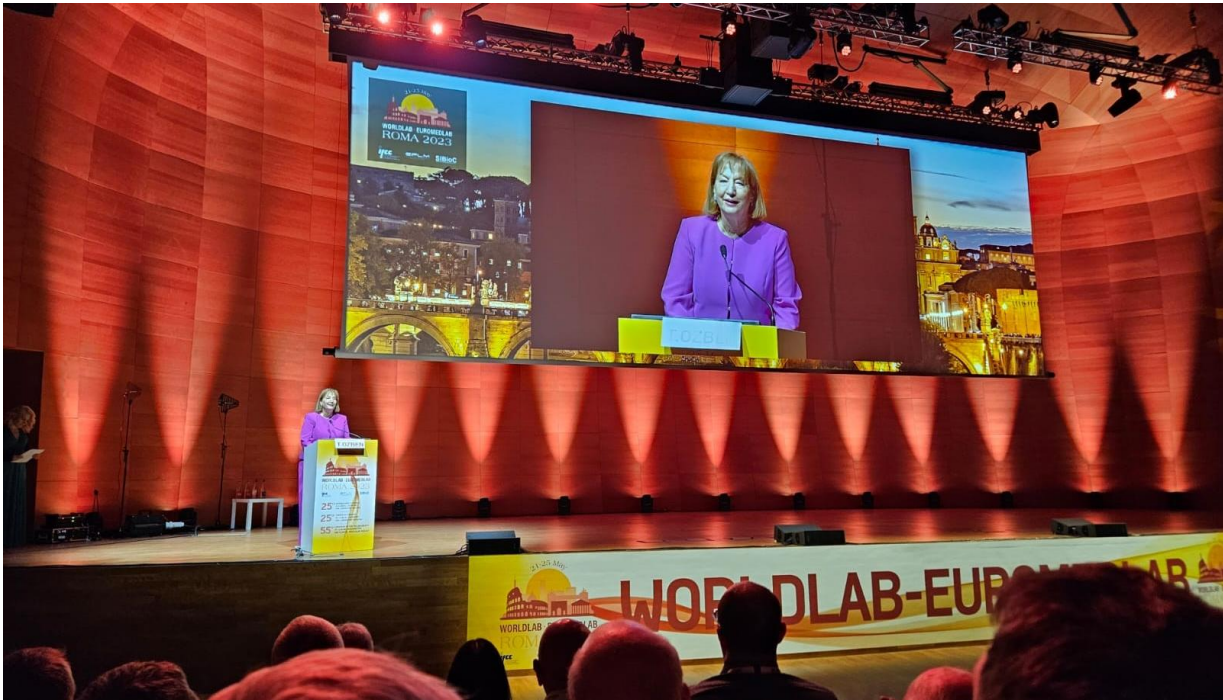
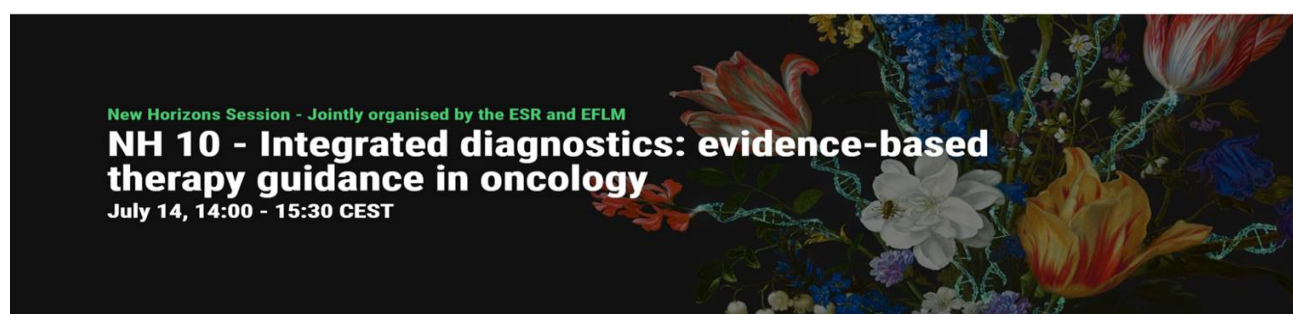


Photo 7. Welcome address at WorldLab-EuroMedLab, May 21st, 2023, Rome, Italy.



Photo 8. Speaker at the 25th IFCC WorldLab-EuroMedLab-SIBiOc Congress, May 2023, Rome, Italy.

Agreements & Collaborations with other Federations, and Associations



- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **European Society of Radiology (ESR)** and European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), which was initiated on March 1, 2019, and expired after 2 years, has been renewed. The Presidents of the ESR and EFLM signed the renewal on October 23, 2023. The renewed MoU is set to be valid for 3 years, extending until December 31, 2026.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF)** and European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) was signed on November 7, 2023, by the Presidents of BCLF and EFLM. This agreement is set to remain valid for three years, concluding on December 31, 2026.



Photo 9. Invited speaker at the session on Integrated Diagnostics at the European Congress of Radiology (ECR). July 13-17, 2022, Vienna, Austria.

- The new guidelines for organizing the **Laboratory Medicine for Mobile Societies (LM4MS)** Conferences were approved by the Executive Boards of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and **Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)** and agreement was signed by the Presidents of the EFLM and AFCB.

Honorary Memberships and Awards

I also want to express my gratitude to the following three EFLM National Societies for their professional esteem towards me. I felt extremely honoured to receive their signs of recognition:

- Honorary Membership from the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (Slovak Republic)
- Honorary Membership from the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (Italy)
- International Lecture Award from the Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine (United Kingdom)

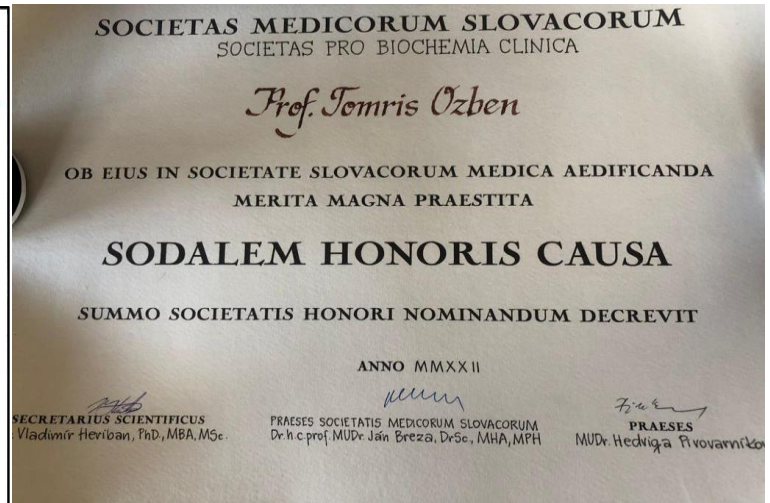
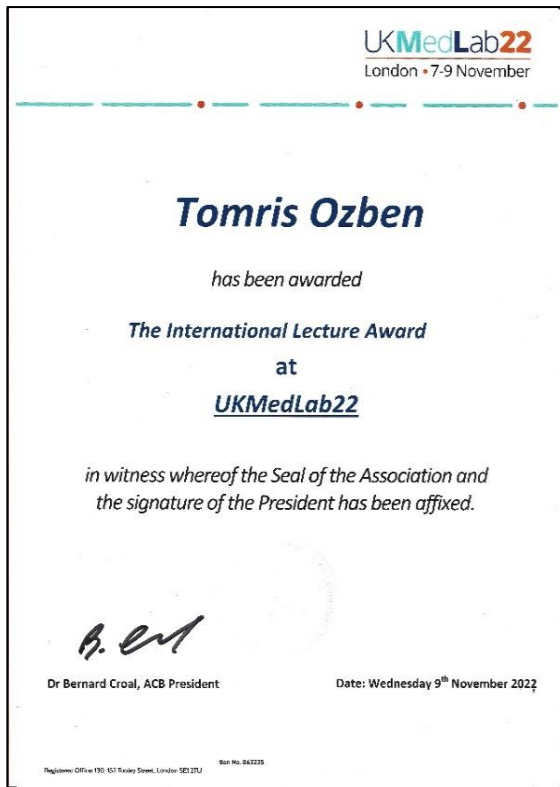


Photo 10. Honorary memberships and International Lecture Award (2022-2023).

EFLM General Meetings

During 2022 and 2023, two EFLM General Meetings in-presence were held:

1. EFLM General Meeting 2022, during the EuroMedLab Congress at the ICM International Congress Centre in Munich on Monday, April 11, 2022, from 12:45 to 14:30 (CET).
2. EFLM General Meeting 2023, during the EuroMedLab Congress at the Rome Congress Centre 'La Nuvola' on Sunday, May 21, 2023, from 13:45 to 16:30 (CET).

Further on, two EFLM General Meetings were conducted online in 2023:

1. EFLM General Meeting via Zoom on September 7, 2023, from 14:00 to 15:00 (CET).
2. EFLM General Meeting via Zoom on November 23, 2023, from 14.00 to 15.00 (CET).



Photo 11. EFLM General Meeting during the EuroMedLab Congress, April 11, 2022, Munich, Germany.



Photo 12. EFLM General Meeting during the WorldLab-EuroMedLab Congress, May 21, 2023a, Rome, Italy.

Interviews with the EFLM National Society Representatives and National Society Presidents “Coffee with the EFLM President”



Interviews with the EFLM National Society Presidents and National Society Representatives were regularly published in the EFLM Newsletters in the section "Coffee with the President" providing the distinguished, successful, and knowledgeable EFLM colleagues and their societies to be recognized by the EFLM community and the readers of the EFLM newsletter to get to know them and their societies better.

At the end, once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all colleagues who stood by my side and played a significant role in the remarkable progress of EFLM.

I am sending my warmest wishes for the upcoming holidays to dear colleagues and friends—may your Christmas be filled with joy, and may the New Year bring you happiness, health, peace, and prosperity.

Yours sincerely,

Tomris Ozben

EFLM President (2022-2023)



Photo 13. Welcoming address at the CELME Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic, October 12-13, 2023.