



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

CRITICAL ROLE OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

IFCC GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON COVID-19
(PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME)

FEBRUARY 15-17, 2021

IFCC Scientific Symposia will be presented in the morning.
Afternoon will be mostly dedicated to industry Educational Workshops.

**TIME SCHEDULE: PROGRAMME WILL START AT 08.00 AM, US EASTERN TIME
(CORRESPONDING TO: 14.00 ROME; 21.00 BEIJING)**

All sessions will be recorded and fully available for registered people.



Professor Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President

WELCOME LETTER

It is my great pleasure to present this welcoming message to all attendees, speakers, and industry sponsors of the IFCC Global Conference on COVID-19. This virtual conference will bring leading experts around the world together to present the latest advances in COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. The theme of this conference will be the Critical Role of Clinical Laboratories in the COVID-19 Pandemic. It will be a truly international event with presentations from all regions across the globe.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the IFCC established a Taskforce on COVID-19 to provide updates on epidemiology, pathogenesis, and diagnostics of COVID-19, as well as to develop practical recommendations for diagnostic testing and patient monitoring. Since establishment, the Taskforce has maintained an online Information Guide on COVID-19, which can be found on the IFCC website. This guide is updated biweekly, presenting the latest evidence on COVID-19. The Taskforce has now also published interim guidelines in the November 2020 issue of Clin Chem Lab Med to provide practical recommendations on the intended use, selection, evaluation, and implementation of laboratory tests used in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection and monitoring of COVID-19 patients.

There is no doubt that the current pandemic has highlighted the critical role of clinical laboratory medicine, which until now has not been widely recognized within healthcare organizations or by the public. Clinical laboratory professionals continue to play a vital role in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection, serological monitoring of individuals with past SARS-CoV-2 infection, and biochemical monitoring of hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Scientists, other medical professionals, industry leaders, and public health authorities have also been working diligently to understand, diagnose, treat, and prevent COVID-19, providing invaluable information and service.

Now, the IFCC feels it is more crucial than ever to virtually bring us all together on a global platform to present the most up to date evidence in the field of COVID-19, with a specific focus on innovations in diagnostics and laboratory management of hospitalized patients. This conference also provides the opportunity for us all to work towards a more collaborative clinical care model in diagnosing and treating COVID-19. Specifically, you will have access to:

- Plenary sessions delivered by leading scientists, physicians, and public health authorities.
- Ten scientific symposia, covering physiology, diagnostics, therapeutics, and technology
- Special presentations on the global response to COVID-19 in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Arab Federation, and North America
- An industry panel with presentations from industry leaders on the latest IVD innovations
- Twelve educational industry workshops
- A young investigator forum with presentations from young scientists worldwide
- Scientific e-posters and virtual industry exhibits

I look forward to seeing many of you (virtually!) at this important and timely scientific event in February.

Professor Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President



CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Khosrow Adeli, Canada (Chair)
Sergio Bernardini, Italy
Andrea Horvath, Australia
David Koch, USA
Giuseppe Lippi, Italy
Tomris Ozben, Turkey
Cheng-Bin Wang, China

Corporate Representatives:

-Rolf Hinzmann, Roche Diagnostics
-Patricia Ravalico, Abbott Diagnostics

Regional Federation Representatives:

-Rosa Sierra-Amor (Latin America)
-Ana-Maria Simundic (Europe)
-Ann Gronowski (North America)
-Rajiv Erasmus (Africa)
-Sunil Kumar Sethi (Asia-Pacific)
-Osama Najjar (Arab Federation)

Conference Organizing Secretariat (MZ Congressi):

-Stefano Montalbetti



SPEAKERS & CHAIRS

Abderrazek Hedhili
Aleksi Tikhonov
Allan Njau
Ana-Maria Simundic
Andrea Horvath
Ann Gronowski
Annalise Zemlin
Antonio Buño Soto
Ashish Agravatt
Benjamin Pinsky
Bernard Gouget
Brandon M. Henry
Camilla Mattiuzzi
Cao Bin
Carl J. Lavie
Chris Farnsworth
Clara Benavent
Corrado Di Natale
Damien Gruson
Daniel Satchkov
Emmanuel J. Favalaro
Fabian Sanchis-Gomar
Federico Remes-Lenicov

Fernando Goldbaum
Giuseppe Lippi
Graciela Russomando
Jac Dinnes
James Nichols
Jenny Doust
Job Harenberg
Jon Deeks
Joseph Passarelli
Marco Perrone
María Belén García Fabiani
Martina Montagnana
Mary Kathryn Bohn
Massimo Ciccozzi
Meheri Emna
Mette Christophersen Tollånes
Michael Neumaier
Miswar Fattah
Mohamed Ben Moussa
Muhittin Serdar
Myrna Germanos
Nevan Krogan
Nicolene Steyn

Nqobile Ndlovu
Osama Najjar
Patricia Ravalico
Patrick Bossuyt
Prasenjit Mitra
Rajiv Erasmus
Ronda Greaves
Rosa Sierra Amor
Sam Schulman
Santiago Fares Taie
Sergio Bernardini
Sibtain Ahmed
Situmbeko Mwangala
Sunil Kumar Sethi
Susan Matthews
Sverre Sandberg
Tahir Pillay
Tan Wenjie
Tom Hope
William Blake



WEEK AGENDA (EASTERN STANDARD TIME / NEW YORK)

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY

	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	POSTER AREA	EXHIBITION AREA
08.00 - 09.30	OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION Critical Role of Laboratory Medicine in Public Health			
09.45 - 11.45	SYM1 Pathophysiology of COVID-19	SYM2 Emerging Tools in Fighting COVID-19		
12.00 - 13.00	Industry EduW 1	Industry EduW 2		
13.15 - 15.15	SYM3 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Europe)	SYM4 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Africa)	ePosters Open	eExhibits Open
15.30 - 16.30	Industry EduW 3	Industry EduW 4		
16.45 - 17.45	Industry EduW 5	Industry EduW 6		
18.00 - 19.00	Industry EduW 7	Industry EduW 8		

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	POSTER AREA	EXHIBITION AREA
08.00 - 09.15	PLENARY SESSION Cardio-renal Involvement in COVID-19		ePosters Open	eExhibits Open
09.30 - 12.00	Industry Panel Technological Innovations for Today and Tomorrow	Young Scientist Forum Oral Presentations by Young Scientists from Around the World		
12.15 - 14.15	SYM5 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Latin America)	SYM6 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (North America)		
14.30 - 15.30	Industry EduW 9	Industry EduW 10		
15.45 - 16.45	Industry EduW 11	Industry EduW 12		

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	POSTER AREA	EXHIBITION AREA
08.00 - 09.30	PLENARY SESSION Clinical Evaluation of Tests for SARS-CoV-2 Infection		ePosters Open	eExhibits Open
09.45 - 11.45	SYM7 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Asia-Pacific)	SYM8 Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Middle East/Arab Federation)		
12.00 - 14.00	SYM9 Hemostasis and COVID-19	SYM10 Technological Developments in Fighting COVID-19 Pandemic		
14.15 - 14.45	CLOSING			



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY (EASTERN STANDARD TIME/NEW YORK)

8:00–9:30 AM

OPENING & PLENARY SESSION

Critical Role of Laboratory Medicine in Public Health
Scientific presentations from Infectious Disease Experts at WHO, NIH, CDC, CAP
IFCC Executive Board
IFCC Taskforce on COVID-19

Break (15 min)

9:45–11:45 ROOM 1

Symposium 1: Pathophysiology of COVID-19

Chair: Khosrow Adeli

- Giuseppe Lippi, Verona, Italy
Pathophysiology of COVID-19 (30 min)
- Camilla Mattiuzzi, Trento, Italy
Demographical, environmental and social predictors (30 min)
- Martina Montagnana, Verona, Italy
Clinical risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness (30 min)
- Q&A (30 min)

Break (15 min)

12:00–13:00

Industry Workshops

Break (15 min)

9:45–11:45 ROOM 2

Symposium 2: Emerging Tools in Fighting COVID-19

Chair: Bernard Gouget

- William Blake, Boston, USA
CRISPR and synthetic biology-based solutions applied to COVID-19 diagnosis (20 min)
- Corrado Di Natale, Rome, Italy
Volatile compounds array for COVID-19 (20 min)
- Daniel Satchkov, Sheridan, USA
Comprehending hundreds of thousands of COVID-19: Studies using mathematical models of language and AI (20 min)
- Tom Hope, USA
Accelerating scientific search and exploration by mining and visualizing COVID-19 literature (20 min)
- Damien Gruson, Brussels, Belgium
Telemedicine and Health at the Time of COVID-19 (20 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

13:15–15:15 ROOM 1

Symposium 3: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Europe)

Chair: Ana-Maria Simundic

- Antonio Buño Soto, Madrid, Spain
Experience of the organization of laboratory medicine in Madrid's IFEMA field hospital during the first wave of the pandemic (30 min)
- Sverre Sandberg, Bergen, Norway
How the government and the national quality improvement organisation of laboratory examinations (Noklus) cooperate in the pandemic (30 min)
- Muhittin Serdar, Istanbul, Turkey
COVID-19 challenges and laboratory perspective from Turkey: Limitations and competences (30 min)
- Q&A (30 min)

Break (15 min)

15:30–16:30

Industry Workshops

Break (15 min)

16:45–17:45

Industry Workshops

Break (15 min)

18:00–19:00

Industry Workshops

13:15–15:15 ROOM 2

Symposium 4: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Africa)

Chair: Rajiv Erasmus

- Annalise Zemlin, Cape Town, South Africa
Biochemical changes in COVID-19: Experience from Africa (20 min)
- Tahir Pillay, Durban, South Africa
The promise of single domain antibodies (nanobodies) in COVID-19: Applications in diagnosis and therapy (20 min)
- Rajiv Erasmus, Cape Town, South Africa
Unfolding the reasons and the theories for COVID-19 being less deadly in Africa (20 min)
- Ngobile Ndlovu, Zimbabwe
COVID-19 diagnostic response: The Africa experience (15 min)
- Situmbeko Mwangala, Zambia
Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 infections among health care workers in Lusaka District, Zambia (15 min)
- Allan Njau, Kenya
Quality management for SARS-CoV-2 testing: Key indicators for starting small and medium size molecular laboratories in Kenya (15 min)
- Q&A (15 min)

8:00–9:15

PLENARY SESSION

Cardio-renal Involvement in COVID-19

Chair: Carl J. Lavie

- Carl J. Lavie, New Orleans, USA
Pathophysiology of cardio-renal involvement in COVID-19 (25 min)
- Brandon M. Henry, Cincinnati, USA
The renin-angiotensin system in COVID-19 (25 min)
- Fabian Sanchis-Gomar, Valencia, Spain
Cardiac biomarkers in COVID-19 (25 min)

9:30–12:00 ROOM 1

COVID-19 Industry Panel: Technological Innovations for Today and Tomorrow

Co-Chairs:

Patricia Ravalico, Abbott (Chair, IFCC Taskforce on Corporate Members)

Joseph Passarelli, Roche (Corporate Representative to the IFCC Executive Board)

- Scientific presentations by industry scientists representing IFCC corporate members
- Panel discussion (30 min)

Break (15 min)

12:15–14:15 ROOM 1

Symposium 5: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Latin America)

Chair: Rosa Sierra Amor

- Graciela Russomando, Asuncion, Paraguay
COVID-19 infection and community transmission: Lessons learned from a public molecular Dx laboratory (20 min)

9:30–12:00 ROOM 2

Young Scientist Forum

Chair: Santiago Fares Taie

- Ashish Agravatt, India
Rapid tests: Antibody & antigen tests (15 min)
- María Belén García Fabian, Argentina
CRISPR: Disrupting technology (15 min)
- Sibtain Ahmed, Pakistan
Utility of prognostic biomarkers in COVID-19 (15 min)
- Marco Perrone, Italy
Clinical management & drugs (15 min)
- Nicolene Steyn, South Africa
COVID in children (15 min)
- Ashlin Rampul, South Africa
Nanobodies for COVID (15 min)
- Clara Benavent, Spain
PCR targets and sensitivity (15 min)
- Aleksei Tikhonov, Russia
Antibody test development (15 min)
- Mary Kathryn Bohn, Canada
Pediatric evaluation of COVID-19 serology assays (15 min)

12:15–14:15 ROOM 2

Symposium 6: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (North America)

Chair: Ann Gronowski

- Benjamin Pinsky, Stanford, USA
Method validation for COVID-19 testing (20 min)

- Fernando Goldbaum, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Equine polyclonal neutralizing antibodies (Epabs) for the treatment of severe COVID-19 patients (20 min)
- Cecilia Tapia
Diagnostic approach in networked laboratories, Chilean experience (20 min)
- Federico Remes-Lenicov, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Emergency establishment of a SARS-CoV-2 test center at an academic lab in the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (20 min)
- Maria-Elizabeth Menezes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
The coronavirus storm: The pandemic situation at the bench (20 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

Break (15 min)

14:30-15:30

Industry Workshops

Break (15 min)

15:45-16:45

Industry Workshops

- Victoria Zhang, Rochester, USA
AACC Taskforce COVID-19 Serology Guidelines (20 min)
- Chris Farnsworth, St. Louis, USA
SARS-CoV-2 serology: Utilization and outstanding questions (20 min)
- Nevan Krogan, San Francisco, USA
Multi-omics/systems approach to COVID investigation (20 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

8:00–9:30

PLENARY SESSION

Clinical Evaluation of Tests for SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Chair: Andrea Horvath

- Patrick Bossuyt, Amsterdam, Netherlands
When disaster strikes: How to balance unmet needs with imperfect tests in an emergency situation of a pandemic? (20 min)
- Jac Dinnes and Jon Deeks, Birmingham, UK
State-of-the-art of diagnostic tests: What did we learn from the Cochrane systematic reviews of existing test evaluations? (20 min)
- Jenny Doust, Brisbane, Australia
Can we do better? Framework for the evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 tests (20 min)
- Q&A (30 min)
- Break (15 min)

9:45–11:45 ROOM 1

Symposium 7: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Asia-Pacific)

Chair: Sunil Kumar Sethi

- Tan Wenjie, China
Discovery of COVID-19 (20 min)
- Miswar Fattah, Indonesia
Variability of molecular testing for SARS CoV-2 (20 min)
- Prasenjit Mitra, India
COVID-19 pandemic: Perspectives from India (20 min)
- Susan Matthews, Australia
SARS-CoV-2 molecular-based testing – experience from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID-19 point-of-care testing program in rural and remote Australia (20 min)
- Cao Bin, China
Atypical pneumonia to COVID-19 (20 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

Break (15 min)

12:00–14:00 ROOM 1

Symposium 9: Hemostasis and COVID-19

Chair: Giuseppe Lippi

- Emmanuel J. Favaloro, Sydney, Australia
ADAMTS13 and Von Willebrand Factor testing in COVID-19 and beyond (30 min)

9:45–11:45 ROOM 2

Symposium 8: Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (Middle East/Arab Federation)

Co-Chairs: Osama Najjar
Abderrazek Hedhili

- Mehiri Emna, Tunisia
Impact of COVID-19 in the Middle East (25 min)
- Myrna Germanos, Lebanon
Impact of COVID-19 (25 min)
- Osama Najjar, Palestine
AFCB Response to COVID-19 crisis (25 min)
- Mohamed Ben Moussa, Tunisia
Tunisian Mobile Military Laboratory and COVID-19 management (25 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

12:00–14:00 ROOM 2

Symposium 10: Emerging Technologies in Fighting COVID-19

Chair: Sergio Bernardini

- Mette Christophersen Tollånes, Bergen, Norway
Quality and clinical use of rapid tests for COVID-19 (20 min)

- Job Harenberg, Heidelberg, Germany
Laboratory diagnostics of COVID-19 related thromboembolism (30 min)
- Sam Schulman, Hamilton, Canada
Anticoagulation and laboratory monitoring in COVID-19 (30 min)
- Q&A (30 min)

- James Nichols, Nashville, USA
CLSI COVID testing resources to assist labs with their validations and implementation of new COVID tests as well as quality management of the testing after implementation (20 min)
- Ronda Greaves, Sydney, Australia
Managing rapid changes in LC/MS during the COVID pandemic: State-of-art (20 min)
- Michael Neumaier, Heidelberg, Germany
Innate and adaptive immunological response to SARS-CoV-2: Implications for vaccine (20 min)
- Massimo Ciccozzi, Rome, Italy
COVID-19 phylogenesis and mutations: Implications for vaccine (20 min)
- Q&A (20 min)

14:00-14:30

CLOSING

IFCC Executive Board

IFCC Taskforce on Covid-19



ABSTRACTS

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS: 5 JANUARY 2021
(Abstracts are limited to 3250 characters, spaces included)

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Call for submissions for COVID-19 related oral presentations. Diverse and high ranking proposals will be selected (can be data-driven or content-based)

VIRTUAL E-POSTER SESSION: for presentation by IFCC members and young scientists

Congress delegates are cordially invited to submit abstracts of their scientific work for presentation as a free communication at the IFCC Global Conference on COVID-19 in February 2021. An unlimited number of abstracts may be submitted provided the presenting author applies for “full registration”.

Abstracts are welcome in all fields of clinical chemistry, hematology, clinical molecular biology and laboratory medicine, in the broader sense. Free communications are primarily presented via poster. A limited number of abstracts will be selected for oral presentation during symposia. Authors wishing to compete for these oral communication slots should mark the appropriate field on the on-line abstract-submission form. Abstracts are limited to 3250 characters, spaces included.

ABSTRACT TOPICS

- COVID-19: innovations in In vitro diagnostics
- Molecular diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 Infection
- Advances & challenges in viral antigen testing
- Advances in serological assays to monitor viral exposure
- Rapid testing and POCT diagnostics
- Antigen testing: Point of care and lab-based assays
- Analytical and clinical assay validation
- Serology testing and immunity
- Molecular testing and infectivity
- External quality assessment and assay standardization
- Orthogonal testing strategies
- Biochemical/hematological markers in patient monitoring
- Clinical risk scores and their global application
- Pediatric management of SARS-CoV-2 viral infection or exposure
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)
- Laboratory biosafety management
- COVID-19: Clinical/Public Health
- Preventive Medicine, Public Health and COVID-19
- COVID-19 treatment & future perspectives:
- Emerging treatments and clinical practice paradigms
- Clinical value of Remdesivir
- Pharmacology and TDM
- Prognosis, pre/post exposure prophylaxis and antiviral treatment
- Convalescent plasma, selection of recipient and donor
- COVID-19 and multisystem organ Involvement
- Progression from respiratory infection to systemic disease
- Hematology and thrombotic complications
- Cardiovascular implications
- Gastrointestinal complications
- Dermatological manifestations
- Rheumatic diseases and COVID-19 susceptibility
- Pulmonary fibrosis and lung function
- Neurological associations
- Nephrology & the vasculature
- Pathological anatomy and cytology
- Key risk factors and role in pathophysiology
- Mental health in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic



REGISTRATIONS

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Online registrations available with the following fees:

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE – valid within 20 January 2021:

IFCC NATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS	€ 100
CORPORATE/INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES	€ 100
YOUNG SCIENTISTS/TRAINEES (=/ $<$ 40 YEARS)	FREE OF CHARGE

AFTER 20 JANUARY 2021:

IFCC NATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS	€ 150
CORPORATE/INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES	€ 150
YOUNG SCIENTISTS/TRAINEES (=/ $<$ 40 YEARS)	€ 50

Registration will allow you to:

- enter all sessions of the programme (both plenary and parallel)
- ask “live” questions and interact with the speakers
- visit industry virtual booths and attend educational workshops
- get a Certificate of Attendance
- enter the recorded sessions for 12 months after the conference date



VIRTUAL INDUSTRY EXHIBITS AND WORKSHOPS

Opportunities for both live and recorded exhibits and workshops by corporate members, IVD manufacturers as well as other member and non-member industry partners.

More information will be sent soon directly to companies’ representatives.



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