



IFBLS

International Federation of
Biomedical Laboratory Science

Candidate Profiles

Nominees to IFBLS Board of Directors 2022 - 2024

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MARIE CULLITON

- *Currently serving as
IFBLS President-Elect 2020-2022*
- *Nominated for the position of
IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*
- *Interested in the position of
IFBLS President*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

IRELAND - Academy of Clinical
Science and Laboratory Medicine

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Endocrinology, Maternal and fetal medicine, Neonatology, Infertility, Adrenal Disorders.
- Professional development; individual and national.
- Education of Biomedical Scientists.
- Parity of all Scientists within Laboratory Medicine.
- Professional Regulation, Fitness to Practice, Code of Conduct, and Ethics.
- Free movement of professionals within biomedical science.
- Harnessing the potential of Biomedical Scientists within Europe leading to an agreed minimum standard of education.
- The role and contribution of Biomedical Scientists in diagnosis and monitoring of disease and management of population health.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

During the past 2 years as your President-Elect, I have worked with the management committee to ensure members are supported. On the Development Committee, we worked to update the Core Competencies Guidelines which are integral to who we are as Biomedical Laboratory Scientists. I have supported the editorial team of our Journal and published articles. I have participated in the Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series which is a tremendous addition to the services provided for members by the Scientific Committee. Working with the WHO contributions have been made to the next edition of the Essential Diagnostics List and to WHO standards for Glucose Meters and syphilis testing.

Education Standard

- The standard of education for Biomedical Scientists should be at Bachelor's level.
- All Biomedical Scientists should have the opportunity to access post-graduate studies.
- Developing teams of biomedical scientists within regions willing to support education within the region within a global network supporting education and training.
- Promoting the adoption of the updated Core Competencies.

CPD

- Work with members to develop a global network of CPD activities appropriate for specialty and stage of professional development.

Publication

- Work with the editorial board of the international journal to ensure its publication and its use as a vehicle to promote the profession and its professionals

Health Policy

- Continue the work with the WHO to ensure the value of Biomedical Science and Biomedical Scientists are understood and utilized to the full in health policy and delivery.
 - Continue to promote the adoption of the WHO Essential Diagnostics List at a global and national level.
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GABRIELLA LILLSUNDE- LARSSON

- *Currently serving as
IFBLS Board Director 2020-2022*
- *Nominated for the position of
IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*
- *Interested in the position of
IFBLS President-Elect*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

SWEDEN - The Swedish Institute of
Biomedical Laboratory Science (IBL)

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Research, education, and professional development.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

I have been fortunate to be a part of the IFBLS Board 2020-2022. As a board member, I have been Chair of the Development Committee and a member of the Scientific Committee. In the Development Committee we have been revising the Core Competencies and Core Curriculum guidelines during this period and also worked on CD Reports from member countries to aid in future activities.

Marie Nora Roald, Janie Hames, and I have started the work on developing a digital International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education database (IDBLSE). We are currently exploring a web tool to be used where we can upload documents and continuously update information. This is a continuous work that I hope to continue in the future.

As part of the Scientific Committee, I have been part of starting the digital IFBLS Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series. During 2022 we have successfully operated seminars on COVID-19 and professional development and the series is ongoing with planned seminars in June and September. It is very rewarding to provide opportunities to meet and learn together on topics important to the BLS profession.

I was part of the scientific board for the IFBLS Congress in Copenhagen in 2021 and also represented the IFBLS Board in several tasks such as being session chair, organizing and awarding the IFBLS poster awards, participating in the Student Forum, participating in the Open Forum, etc.

I am very happy for my previous period and tasks in the Board, and I am now seeking to explore a future role as President-Elect. These two years have been rewarding in both a professional and personal way. I have learned many things about our BLS community, and I would be happy to take on more roles and responsibilities in developing this organization for future challenges. During the last years, we have had to adapt to many changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both from a personal perspective and also as an organization. We have learned to use digital tools for meetings, seminars, and conferences but at the cost of fewer face-to-face meetings. And this might be the new normal. We, as an organization, must work hard to ensure member value despite these challenges.

As you may recall from my previous application, I have a special interest in research and education. In my daily work, I am fortunate to be able to divide my time between education, clinical practice, and research. As program director for a master's program for biomedical scientists, I am passionate about continuous professional development for the profession. I strongly believe that to attract young people to this exciting profession, we need to provide opportunities for advanced studies and to career development.

My suggestions for future IFBLS activities are:

- To extend the Scientific Networks to include more areas/topics and to encourage members to publish in the IFBLS journal.
- To explore the possibility to start other networks for different professional areas, for example in education.
- To continue working for biannual conferences on biomedical science. This is a very important forum for connecting and learning from each other. But we must adapt to the new normal and find new solutions for professional education.

- Release the digital International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education database (IDBLSE) in the coming period.
 - Continue the digital IFBLS Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series and also have seminars on site on specific topics.
 - Finally, I look forward to our work together on topics important to the profession. The pandemic has shown our importance in health care, and we must continue to add value, quality, and science to health care and to the community in the future.
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HASSAN AZIZ

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Laboratory administration, Higher Education leadership, Microbiology.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

Dr. Hassan Aziz is the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Dr. Aziz is the immediate past President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). He is a Fellow of the Association of Clinical Scientists (ACS) and of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia (UGA). He is a certified Green Belt Six Sigma and TEDx speaker.

With a distinguished career spanning over 30 years, Dr. Aziz has been a leader in integrating research and education, experiential learning, and curricular innovations across multiple disciplines. He has an extensive international experience in higher education, consulting, and advisory work. He is an external examiner for several international academic programs and an adjunct faculty to a number of institutions. He is an active member of national and international professional and scientific societies and organizations. He represents ASCLS at the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) and he is a member of its Scientific Network of Experts. He is a VIP mentor to new program directors through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) as well as a site visitor for clinical laboratory programs.

In addition to numerous international conference presentations and guest speaking engagements, Dr. Aziz has over 80 peer-reviewed publications. In 2019, he was the recipient of the prestigious ASCP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished Author Award by ASCLS. He is a consulting editor for Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) published by ASCLS.

Suggestions for future IFBLS activities are:

- Introduce Virtual Reality Laboratories training courses.
 - Coordinate a summit on the future of the Laboratory Workforce, challenges, opportunities, and training needs.
 - Create and maintain globally accessible and inclusive training for laboratory staff.
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MARIA KLEMENT

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

CANADA - Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Quality and safety standards
- Student engagement
- Board of Directors

I am a Medical Laboratory Technologist in Canada. My role working in the Interior of British Columbia was as a Quality Director. This position allowed me to implement a quality management system. Besides quality, I was heavily involved with Point of Care Testing and the safety of staff.

I have always had a passion for volunteering and giving back to my community; be it for my professional societies, educational systems, athletics, or the voice of the patient.

I have held many boards of directors positions including the presidential chain for the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS). I am currently the Vice Chair for the Patient Voices Network for the British Columbia Patient and Safety Quality Council, and sit on the steering committee for Healthcare Excellence Canada Patient Partner Community Codesign Initiative as well as community healthcare committees.

I have always been proud of my profession and advocate and promote the profession.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

- Student engagement learning sessions to understand the views of new generations.
 - Provide quality and safety training and education.
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GODSWILL CHIKWENDU OKARA

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

NIGERIA - Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Postgraduate professional education in Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Specialised professional training and development of qualifications to enhance the practice of Biomedical Laboratory Science at specialist and consultant levels
- Quality Management System Implementation in medical laboratory practice
- The role and contribution of Biomedical Laboratory Science in global health security agenda
- Immunology, Clinical chemistry, Molecular Diagnostics and Genomics
- Appropriate ISCO categorization of Biomedical Laboratory Science professional status
- Regional and International collaboration for Health and Laboratory Workforce Strengthening
- Research and Publications

My background in academia and hospital laboratory practice has shaped my interest in professional education, capacity building, research and publication of research findings over the years. I am a registered medical laboratory scientist with training and qualifications in Clinical Chemistry, Immunology and Bacteriology. I have taught Clinical Chemistry and Immunology in a University Medical College, managed and headed a Department of Chemical Pathology and laboratory services in a University Teaching Hospital for years, before my current role as the Registrar & Secretary General of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science, a regional postgraduate training institution of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), under the technical supervision of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), covering the sixteen countries of West Africa and Cameroon.

Nationally, I have served as a Member of Management Boards of Teaching Hospitals (2009 - 2015); Governing Board of Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) 2004-2007, 2013-2015; President, Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN) 2011-2014; Chairman, Assembly of Healthcare Professional Associations in Nigeria (2009-2019); Executive Member, Joint Health Sector Unions (2009-2019). I was actively involved in several Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) with the Federal Government of Nigeria for salaries and wages of health professionals over the years. I served as a Senior Biomedical Consultant for National Health and Educational Institutions Rehabilitation Programme (1997-2002); as well as Senior National Consultant for upscaling molecular diagnostic laboratory network for COVID-19 testing in Nigeria (2020-2021).

In my current role as the Registrar/Secretary General of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (WAPCMLS), I provide administrative leadership for the accreditation of training institutions, oversight and coordination of training activities, examination and certification of specialist Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in all the training institutions across West Africa for the specialist Fellowship training programme of the College in ECOWAS member countries. I am a member of the ECOWAS Regional Council for Health Professionals' Education (ERCHE), as well as Member of a number of Advisory and Expert Committees of the West African Health Organisation.

I work closely with the President and Regional Council of College to provide leadership for the achievement of the mandate of the College for specialist professional training, providing expert advise to the West African Health Organisation and ECOWAS member countries on matters relating to health and biomedical laboratory services in West Africa. Currently, I provide advisory and mentorship support to medical laboratory scientists in East, Central and Southern Africa region in their ongoing effort to create a similar regional postgraduate College for Fellowship training within the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC).

Externally, I serve as a Member of the Scientific Advisory Board and Key Opinion Leader for BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) Diagnostics International, Eastern Europe, Middle East and African (EMA) region since 2013. In this capacity, I have provided expert professional advice in Clinical Chemistry through seminar and workshop presentations organized and hosted by BD Diagnostics International in various countries in Africa and Middle East.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

- In my active participation in IFBLS World Congresses from 2010 in Nairobi Kenya, 2012 in Berlin Germany, 2014 in Taipei Taiwan, 2016 in Kobe Japan and to 2018 in Florence Italy, I have realized the immense capacity and potential of the IFBLS to influence the growth and status of the Biomedical Laboratory Science profession globally. The high impact of the 29th World Congress in Nairobi in 2010 gave rise to the formation of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science, a regional body that is elevating and influencing the standard of healthcare practice, biomedical laboratory science education, training, health research, disease surveillance and prevention in Africa through laboratory workforce development.
 - I will work with other colleagues in the IFBLS Board to encourage similar regional network of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists for the development of the profession across regions.
 - I am seeking election as a Member of the IFBLS Board of Directors to leverage on my experience to network with other colleagues in increasing the global impact and clout of our professional body for the benefit of members, society and humanity. I will contribute in strengthening the relationship and influence of IFBLS with regional and global organisations for influencing and improving the standards of education, training, regulation and practice of the profession in member countries. A strong and focused IFBLS Board is very central to the work of IFBLS.
 - Identifying a network of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists to strengthen education and training for laboratory workforce capacity development, Continuing Professional Development activities and encouraging publication of research work in the IFBLS Journal by members.
 - IFBLS has a rich mix of experts and specialists in her membership, as well as the global spread to position it as an International Development Implementing Partner for multilateral development agencies. It is worthwhile exploiting this huge potential.
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KI-JONG RHEE

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

KOREA - Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Biomedical Laboratory Science curriculum development
- Student engagement
- Scientific interaction

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

I am Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science and the Department of Forensic Science (Graduate School) at Yonsei University in Korea. In addition to my academic commitments, I am on the board of the Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT) and currently serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Korean Journal of Clinical Laboratory Science (KJCLS) - the official journal of KAMT. I have served on multiple committees at KAMT allowing me the opportunity to interact with biomedical laboratory scientists from diverse fields both in Korea and abroad.

My professional background is in academic research. After obtaining an undergraduate degree in Medical Technology and a Master's Degree in Microbiology in Korea, I received a PhD in Immunology from Loyola University Chicago (USA) and continued my post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Thereafter, I was an assistant professor at the Department of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at University of Illinois Chicago (USA). In 2011, I returned to my alma mater as professor of the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science at Yonsei University (Korea). I have taught both undergraduate and graduate students to become successful biomedical laboratory scientists.

Suggestions(s) for future IFBLS activities and how you plan to develop each:

Being on the organizing committee for the IFBLS 2022 Congress helped me realize that I can further promote my profession in two ways. First, due to my academic background, I have a noted interest in curriculum development of undergraduate and graduate school programs. Training future biomedical laboratory scientists is a key passion of mine. A platform in which students from different countries can regularly interact - whether by virtual meetings and/or shared classes - should engage students and foster a feeling of unity among students worldwide. Although the COVID-19 pandemic severely hampered traditional modes of teaching, in Korea, we have experimented with alternative methods of teaching that could be implemented for shared international courses. Second, my research background has given me the opportunity to train biomedical laboratory scientists to obtain higher academic degrees. Diagnosing disease has become more complex and multifactorial and thus we must also further provide a regular format for learning through continuing education. Sharing our academic and research experience with each other will improve the development of a better biomedical laboratory scientist. Furthermore, interacting regularly with international members is key to forming a foundation for enhancing IFBLS interests.



KAPTAN SINGH SEHRAWAT

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

INDIA - Indian Confederation of Medical Laboratory Science (ICMLS)

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Total Quality Management
- Professional Development
- Professional Regulation & Licensing/Registration
- Curriculum Development
- Standardization of career pathway, job roles and scope of practice
- ISCO
- POCT
- Patient Safety & Risk Management, etc.

I am working as a Technical Officer of Medical Laboratory Services in a Central Government Hospital at New Delhi (India) I did my master degree in Total Quality Management with a specialisation in Clinical Research and currently pursuing Doctorate (PhD) in Clinical Research. I have more than 18 years of experience in various important areas of laboratory sciences. My current role being a Technical officer is to supervise the lab functioning in Department of Clinical Biochemistry & 24 hours Emergency Lab Services.

I have around 15 years of leadership experience in Allied Health Sciences & Medical Technology Professions in India. Presently, I am holding a position of President of Indian Confederation of Medical Laboratory Sciences & General Secretary of Joint Forum of Medical Technologists of India (JFMTI) which is a common national registered federation of Allied & Healthcare Associations in India. I am a founder of NMLPW in India. We as a team under ICMLS achieved many milestone under the aegis of ICMLS for overall development of medical laboratory professionals. I have been part of a National Expert Task force Committees under our Ministry which has developed a model curriculum for MLS degree and master Degree courses in India. I am a Chairperson of an International Committee on Standardisation & Augmentation of Clinical Lab Professions (InCoSalp). Being a Chief Delegate, I have been associated with IFBLS since 2016.

I have been instrumental in cadre restructuring of Medical Laboratory Professional and for setting a model career pathway with defined qualification, pay scales and designation for central government medical laboratory professionals in India which has paved the way for many state governments also to standardise and harmonise the cadre structure of medical laboratory professionals in their respective states. I have been part of various Committees under Ministry of Health & FW for professional development of medical laboratory professional in India. Currently I am associated with many organisational committees with regard to implementation of NCAHP Act-2021 in India

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

I am filing my nomination first time in IFBLS.

I wish to contribute to the activities for harmonization of professional standards in clinical laboratory teaching/training and professional practices among various member countries through regular collaborative initiatives under IFBLS. I also wish to explore about the global approaches of professional regulation/licensing of Medical laboratory Professionals and accreditation model for standardization of education and practices which can be an important step for overall improvement for the quality of MLS education and practices particularly in developing countries. Therefore, I wish to be part of this prestigious BOD of IFBLS to learn and contribute in all above mentioned important areas of my interest. I am seeking your kind support and cooperation.



MIRJANA STUPNISEK

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

CROATIA - Croatian Laboratory Association (CLA)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Education, Training, and Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Professionals/Scientists
- Promotion of the Biomedical Laboratory Profession/Science worldwide
- Hematology, Cytology, Pharmacology, Infectious Diseases, Quality Control, Biosecurity and Biosafety, Scientific Research

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

I am a registered Biomedical Laboratory Scientist, with a Master's degree in biomedical laboratory diagnostics (BLS) and a Doctoral degree (PhD) in Biomedicine and Health (Medical Sciences). In addition, I completed a one-year specialist training and gained the title of Health Manager.

I have 37 years of work experience in the fields of hematology, cytology, pharmacology, infectious diseases, quality control, biosecurity/biosafety, and scientific research. Currently, I am employed full-time as the Coordinator of the Biosafety / Biosafety Coordination at the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Also, I am a lecturer (Associate Professor) at the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health, University of Osijek, and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Osijek.

I have 20 years of experience in organizing courses, conferences, and congresses, and externally I have contributed to a number of profession-related projects, different councils and working groups as a member, e.g., member of the Sectoral Council for Health (advisory and professional body that ensures the development of human resources in Croatia, 2017-2021).

In IFBLS, I had the honor to be a part of various working groups and committees. I have served as a member of the Board of Directors (2010-2016).

My suggestions for future IFBLS activities are:

Development and promotion of education and BLS profession:

- Harmonization of the BLS education (training and practice) internationally
- Promotion of the continuing professional development internationally
- Strengthening IFBLS by utilizing international expert groups for different BLS disciplines within IFBLS.
- Promoting the role, contribution, and importance of the BLS profession in the society and health system in the world (BLS Day, BLS Congress)

Strengthening the role of IFBLS worldwide:

- Continue to work on the revision of ISCO
 - Continue to work on collaboration with the WHO
 - Continue to work on increasing the number of IFBLS members
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DAVID WELLS

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2022-2024*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

UNITED KINGDOM - Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Clinical Chemistry
- Rapid testing
- Service Management
- National/International policy (diagnostics)
- Accreditation
- Innovation
- Digital

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

Building upon our increased public profile during the post-pandemic period.

- Through engagement and publications to raise the profile with clinicians. Public and Government organizations.

Supporting member organizations to ensure the profession remains visible and involved in future planning of diagnostic services.

- Through engagement and publications to raise the profile with clinicians. Public and Government organizations.

Supporting the increased roles and competency of the Biomedical Laboratory Workforce.

- Through developing well-recognized routes to training and qualifications, sharing experiences across organizations and promoting and publicizing good practice.
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