



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.
