



IFBLS 36th World Congress

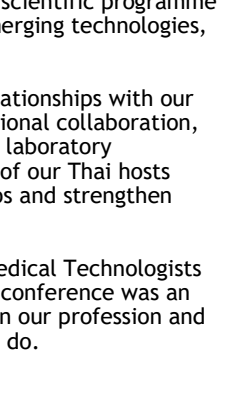
The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) is excited to welcome Biomedical Laboratory professionals from around the world to the 36th IFBLS World Congress, taking place 23-27 September 2026 in Chiba, Japan. Hosted by the **Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT)**, this highly anticipated event will be held at the Makuhari Messe Convention Center, providing an outstanding setting for international collaboration, learning, and professional exchange.

Under the inspiring theme “**Bridge to the Future of BLS Around the World**” the Congress will bring together members of the global Biomedical Laboratory Science community to share knowledge, explore emerging developments, and strengthen connections across countries and regions.

The 36th IFBLS World Congress is more than a scientific gathering—it is an opportunity for our international community to come together, celebrate the vital contributions of Biomedical Laboratory professionals, and look ahead to the future of our profession. We encourage all IFBLS members and colleagues to make plans to join us in Japan for this exceptional world-class event.

Stay informed! Visit the official IFBLS 2026 Congress website for the latest news, program updates, registration information, and important deadlines: www.ifbbs2026.jp.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chiba and to joining together to build bridges, strengthen our global profession, and shape the future of Biomedical Laboratory Science around the world. See you in Japan!



IFBLS GAD and Chief Delegates Meetings 2026

The IFBLS General Assembly of Delegates (GAD) and Chief Delegates (CD) Meetings will be held during the 36th IFBLS World Congress in Chiba, Japan, from 23-27 September 2026. These important business meetings provide an opportunity for IFBLS Association Members and their Chief Delegates to discuss matters affecting the Federation, and participate in discussions that help shape the future of IFBLS.

The final agenda and accompanying attachments for the GAD, CD Meetings, and Open Forum were circulated to all IFBLS Chief Delegates and Association Member contacts in early August. Delegates are encouraged to review the materials in advance and come prepared to participate in the discussions taking place during the meetings.

The Chief Delegates Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 23 September, with a second session on Thursday, 24 September, which will include introductions of candidates nominated for election to the IFBLS Board of Directors 2026-2028. The General Assembly of Delegates will be held on Sunday, 27 September, followed immediately by the Closing Ceremony of the World Congress.

We look forward to welcoming our Association Members and Chief Delegates to Chiba and to productive and engaging business meetings as we continue to work together to strengthen and advance Biomedical Laboratory Science around the world.

Election IFBLS Board of Directors 2026–2028

The election for the IFBLS Board of Directors 2026-2028 will be held during the General Assembly of Delegates (GAD) in Chiba, Japan. The election will be conducted in-person, with ballots cast by officially appointed Chief Delegates present at the GAD.

Seven Board Members will be elected from among the nominated candidates to help guide our organization and support its continued growth and development over the next two years.

We invite you to visit the [IFBLS website](http://www.ifbbs2026.jp) to learn more about the candidates!

President’s Report: Representing IFBLS at the 48th AMTT Annual Conference

It was an honour to represent IFBLS at the 48th Annual Conference of the Association of Medical Technologists of Thailand (AMTT), held from 29 June to 1 July 2026 in Nonthaburi, Thailand. Under the inspiring theme “**AI with a Human Touch**,” the conference brought together over 3,000 laboratory professionals, educators, researchers, and students from across the region and beyond to discuss the future of laboratory medicine.

The opening ceremony was a memorable occasion, presided over by His Royal Highness Prince Chalmersuk Yugala, highlighting the importance of medical laboratory science in advancing healthcare. Throughout the conference, participants enjoyed a high-quality scientific programme featuring international presentations, poster sessions, and discussions on emerging technologies, including the growing role of artificial intelligence in laboratory practice.

The meeting also provided valuable opportunities for IFBLS to strengthen relationships with our member societies and partner organizations. Discussions focused on international collaboration, professional development, education, and supporting the next generation of laboratory professionals. In addition to the scientific programme, the warm hospitality of our Thai hosts and the cultural activities offered excellent opportunities to build friendships and strengthen our global professional network.

On behalf of IFBLS, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Association of Medical Technologists of Thailand for their outstanding organization and generous hospitality. The conference was an excellent example of how international collaboration continues to strengthen our profession and inspire innovation while keeping patient care at the centre of everything we do.

Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson, President IFBLS



Hassan Aziz Represents IFBLS at the 1st African Congress of Medical Biology

Hassan Aziz, IFBLS President-Elect, had the distinct honor of serving as the keynote speaker at the inaugural African Congress of Medical Biology, held in Tunisia from May 3-5, 2026. This landmark event brought together an exceptional assembly of scientific leaders, academic scholars, and healthcare practitioners from across the African continent and beyond, all united by a shared commitment to advancing medical biology and strengthening healthcare systems.

The congress provided a dynamic platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and dialogue on the future of laboratory medicine and biomedical sciences. Through his keynote address, Dr. Aziz highlighted the critical role of laboratory professionals in improving patient outcomes, strengthening public health infrastructure, and driving innovation in diagnostics and research.

In addition to delivering the keynote, Dr. Aziz actively participated in engaging discussions with fellow experts and stakeholders, addressing both the challenges and opportunities facing healthcare systems across Africa. The gathering fostered meaningful connections and facilitated the sharing of best practices, innovative approaches, and forward-thinking strategies that will continue to influence the development of the field.

Reflecting on the experience, Dr. Aziz expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to such an inspiring and impactful event. “It was a privilege to engage with dedicated professionals who are shaping the future of healthcare across the continent. The exchange of ideas and shared vision for progress reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing excellence in laboratory medicine,” he noted.

The 1st African Congress of Medical Biology marks an important milestone in fostering regional collaboration and strengthening the global laboratory medicine community. IFBLS remains proud to support and engage with initiatives that promote professional development, innovation, and excellence worldwide.



Marie Culliton Represents IFBLS at the WHO Global Diagnostics Coalition

The steering group of the WHO Global Diagnostics Coalition met in Geneva at the end of May 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to progress the thematic areas that had previously been identified. While the meeting was in hybrid format it was a significant advantage to be present.

The previous virtual meeting in April had agreed the Mission, Vision and Objectives of the group.

Kylie Shae, Team Lead, Medical Devices and Assistive technologies, WHO led the meeting and welcomed 60 participants

Dr Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General, Health Systems Access and Data, WHO delivered the formal opening, contextualizing the meeting within discussions at the preceding World Health Assembly 2026, where member states had emphasized the critical importance of diagnostics access, laboratory capacity, and diagnostic quality assurance. She highlighted these issues are even more urgent in the context of the concurrent declaration of public health emergencies including hanta virus and the Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak in the DRC and Uganda.

Kylie Shae provided a presentation on the GDC as a whole, emphasizing that the Coalition is intended to promote a holistic understanding of diagnostics, spanning not only technologies, but also the health workforce, service settings, and the wide range of health conditions for which timely diagnosis matters. She highlighted the breadth of diagnostic services as an agenda that cuts across diseases, populations, and levels of care, and underscored the value of bringing these often fragmented perspectives together through the GDC. The GDC is an informal network for exchange, advocacy, and collaboration, designed to strengthen visibility, collective voice, and integration of diagnostics within health systems.

There are three strategic pillars as the advocacy framework for communicating the coalition’s role:

- **Illuminate:** Surface the evidence and sustain the network - making the diagnostics gap visible through surfacing evidence, sharing knowledge, and connecting the community.
- **Champion:** Build political will and investment – turning visibility into commitment by making the case for political attention, sustained advocacy, and investment.
- **Integrate:** Drive systems level integration – embedding diagnostics into health systems, policies, plans, and delivery mechanisms at country level.

The journeys to implementation of the Essential Diagnostic List in Timor-Leste and Uganda were presented.

The Secretariat proposed six thematic areas for Year 1 working groups, Members in three breakout groups worked through two thematic areas each proposing priorities to be delivered in Year 1.

- 1) Bridging data and evidence gaps;
 - Mapping existing diagnostic data sources and indicators used – focused on methodology rather than data collection to identify gaps and avoid duplication;
 - a framework for standardized metrics for diagnostic access and affordability;
 - targeted advocacy at country and partner level for adoption of the harmonized framework into national health information systems.
- 2) Learning and knowledge sharing;
 - A searchable, curated repository of diagnostic guidelines, regulatory resources, training materials, and case studies;
 - peer exchange forum: organized sessions for sharing best practices;
 - aligned advocacy toolkit with unified messages for global platforms.
- 3) Raising awareness and political prioritization;
 - A universal investment case for diagnostics, including successful case studies from Member States
 - A shared advocacy and messaging toolkit for all GDC members.
 - Consolidated case studies on political support and investment strategies at regional or national levels, coordinated by GDC partners.
 - WHA resolution statement and advocacy brief that reference previous Dx Resolutions and provide metrics on achievements and gaps.
 - Suggested refinement for title: “Political prioritization and Strategic Advocacy” to better reflect the agenda-setting ambition.
- 4) Primary health care and UHC integration;
 - A gap analysis of compliance with and use of the WHO Model list of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics at country and regional levels;
 - templates for national diagnostic plans to run in parallel with the diagnostic directory;
 - a set of case studies illustrating successful PHC integration of diagnostics.
- 5) Workforce and quality systems
 - A survey of country-level workforce and quality system needs, using innovative approaches to capture multi-stakeholder perspectives;
 - a mapping of existing training resources and e-learning materials accessible to diagnostics workforce;
 - a diagnostic workforce mapping exercise to produce a baseline understanding of roles, numbers, and competencies by country and region – potentially developed in partnership with professional societies.
- 6) Products, supply chain and innovation.
 - A scoping paper on pooled procurement mechanisms, including feasibility and functionality assessment;
 - forecasting and costing templates for use by country procurement teams;
 - advocacy materials on accelerated and harmonized regulatory pathways for innovative diagnostics.

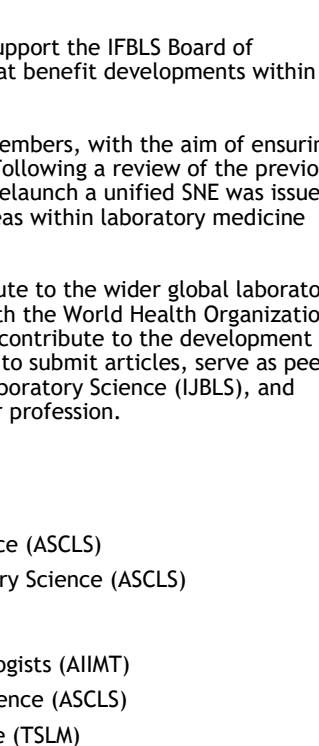
IJBLS—Retirement of Editor in Chief Dr. Patricia Tille

IFBLS extends its warmest congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Patricia Tille on her retirement as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS).

From 2020 to 2026, Patricia’s leadership as Editor-in-Chief has been marked by an unwavering commitment to excellence in scientific publishing, education, and the advancement of Biomedical Laboratory Science. Through her dedication, expertise, and vision, she has played an important role in strengthening the IJBLS and ensuring that it continues to provide valuable scientific knowledge and a respected platform for BLS professionals around the world. Her contribution has made a lasting impact not only on IFBLS, but on our profession globally.

As we celebrate Patricia’s achievements, we also look forward to the next chapter for the IJBLS. IFBLS is pleased to announce that we will introduce our new Editor-in-Chief in Fall 2026, who will build upon Patricia’s excellent work and help guide the journal into the future. We look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen our great journal and its contribution to the global Biomedical Laboratory Science community.

On behalf of IFBLS and our members around the world, thank you, Patricia, for your years of dedicated service, leadership, and friendship. We wish you every happiness and success in your next chapter.



Scientific Network of Experts (SNE)

The IFBLS Scientific Network of Experts (SNE) was established to support the IFBLS Board of Directors through expert advice, document review and projects that benefit developments within laboratory medicine and our profession.

The Network is drawn from the membership of IFBLS Association Members, with the aim of ensuring broad representation across disciplines and geographical regions. Following a review of the previous Scientific Network and Advisory Groups, a call for applications to relaunch a unified SNE was issued in June 2025. Thirty-two experts representing a broad range of areas within laboratory medicine and professional practice were selected for the 2026-2029 term.

The expertise of the SNE also strengthens IFBLS’s ability to contribute to the wider global laboratory medicine community. As a Non-State Actor in Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), IFBLS receives opportunities for experts and volunteers to contribute to the development of WHO documents and initiatives. SNE members may also be invited to submit articles, serve as peer reviewers or editors for the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS), and participate in other activities that support the advancement of our profession.

Meet our Scientific Network of Experts for 2026 - 2029

Blood Transfusion Sciences

- John Ko, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Tamera Alpaugh, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

Clinical Biochemistry

- Marghoob Hasan, India - All India Institute of Medical Technologists (AIIMT)
- Jenny Gao, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Po Chih Chen, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)
- Elina Linnavuori, Finland - Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in Finland (ABLSF)

Clinical Cytology

- Anita Breški, Croatia - Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP-PDMLA)
- Kyoko Komatsu, Japan - Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT)

Clinical Haematology

- Mirjana Stupnisek, Croatia - Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP-PDMLA)
- Nichola Lawrence, United Kingdom - Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)
- Jeanne Isabel, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Indu Singh, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Jacqui Dennis, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)

Clinical Histopathology

- Anita Breški, Croatia - Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP-PDMLA)
- Natalia Kval, Norway - Norwegian Institute of Biomedical Science (NITO)
- Kyoko Komatsu, Japan - Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT)
- Trung Nguyen, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)

Clinical Microbiology and Virology

- Luay Abu-Qatouseh, Jordan - Medical Technology Laboratory Sciences Society (MTLS)
- Sarah Pitt, United Kingdom - Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)
- Rodney Rohde, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Navin Karan, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Sui-Yuan Chang, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)

Education

- Tamera Alpaugh, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Peter Hu, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Trung Nguyen, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Jacqui Dennis, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Navin Karan, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)

Immunology and Serology

- Luay Abu-Qatouseh, Jordan - Medical Technology Laboratory Sciences Society (MTLS)
- Kuo-Chien Tsao, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)

Laboratory and Patient Safety

- Mirjana Stupnisek, Croatia - Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP-PDMLA)
- Elina Linnavuori, Finland - Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in Finland (ABLSF)

Laboratory Management

- Jeanne Isabel, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- John Ko, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Samantha Austin, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Jayachandran Nair, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Christen Diel, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

Laboratory Quality Assurance

- Marghoob Hasan, All India Institute of Medical Technologists (AIIMT)
- Christen Diel, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Jayachandran Nair, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Kuo-Chien Tsao, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)

Molecular Biology/Medical Genetics

- Anita Breški, Croatia - Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP-PDMLA)
- Peter Hu, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Rodney Rohde, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Pi-Yueh Chang, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)
- Hsiang-Liang Ho, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)
- Sung-Ling Yu, Taiwan - Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)

Point of Care Testing (PoCT)

- Helga Sigrún Sigurjónsdóttir, Iceland - The Icelandic Association of Biomedical Scientists (IABS)

Pre-Analytics

- Samantha Austin, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)
- Virginie Sandra Letertre, Iceland - The Icelandic Association of Biomedical Scientists (IABS)

Public Health

- Rodney Rohde, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

Research

- Tamera Alpaugh, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Peter Hu, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
- Indu Singh, Australia - Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS)

Toxicology

- Deborah Kiel, USA - American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

IFBLS Position Papers

Recognizing the Contributions of the IFBLS Scientific Network of Experts

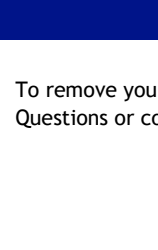
The IFBLS would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Scientific Network of Experts (SNE) who recently contributed their time, knowledge and expertise to the revision and updating of three important IFBLS Position Papers: Code of Ethics, Patient Safety, and Point-of-Care Testing (PoCT). Their thoughtful contributions and professional insight have helped ensure that these resources continue to reflect current practice and support the advancement of Biomedical Laboratory Science worldwide.

The successful completion of the three Position Paper revisions is an excellent example of the value of this Network and the expertise within our IFBLS membership. We are grateful to all of the SNE members who contributed to this work and to those who continue to share their knowledge in support of IFBLS initiatives. Together, the Scientific Network of Experts is helping IFBLS strengthen its role as the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists.

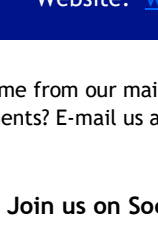
The updated Code of Ethics, Patient Safety, and Point-of-Care Testing (PoCT) Position Papers are now published on the [IFBLS website](http://www.ifbbs2026.jp) and are available as resources for IFBLS members and the wider laboratory medicine community.



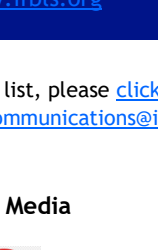
IFBLS Board of Directors 2024-2026



Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson - President



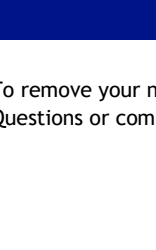
Hassan Aziz - President-Elect



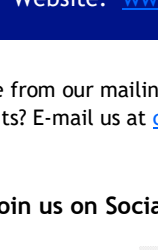
Marie Culliton - Past-President



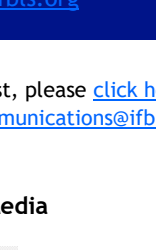
Bitten Kaarbjaerg Kristensen - Board Member



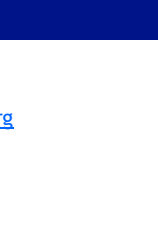
Maria Klement - Board Member



Giseon Song - Board Member



Alan Wainwright - Board Member



Robyn Wells - Board Member

THE GLOBAL VOICE OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (est. 1954) is the world’s widest reaching international organization for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists, bringing the profession, the professionals and health priorities to the world stage.

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