



International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science

## Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics

Happy **BLS Day 2025** to everyone!

As you know, the International BLS Day gives our profession a day to promote and celebrate ourselves as a profession. This year's theme is ***Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics***.

We as Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (BLS) play a key role in advancing sustainability within our field, as we are at the core of the laboratory operations. Our expertise and actions directly influence the environmental impact, the ethical standards, and the efficiency of laboratory practices.

One of the most significant contributions we as professionals can make toward sustainability is through our knowledge and application of best practices in laboratory operations. We are in a unique position to influence how laboratory resources are used, ensuring that testing protocols minimize waste and energy consumption, while maintaining the highest standards of patient care. By promoting the use of more sustainable laboratory practices—such as utilizing reusable equipment, reducing the dependence on single use plastics, and switching to more eco-friendly consumables—we can make a real impact in reducing the overall environmental footprint of the laboratory.

Additionally, we have a responsibility to engage with sustainability on the procurement side of laboratory operations. Given our technical knowledge and experience, we are well-suited to advise on selecting environmentally sustainable products, such as those made from recyclable materials or biodegradable alternatives. Through this involvement in purchasing decisions, we as professionals can ensure that sustainability is embedded in the very fabric of laboratory operations.

Workforce sustainability is another critical area. Both when it comes to having a sufficient number of workforce, and to the adaptation of best practice. As the health care landscape evolves, we must continually adapt by gaining new skills and knowledge to stay up-to-date with technological advancements and emerging sustainable practices. We need to be proactive in pursuing ongoing education and training in different areas, not the least in eco-friendly laboratory technologies, resource conservation methods, and ethical sourcing. This commitment to personal and professional development not only enhances our ability to drive sustainability in the laboratory but also ensures that the workforce is well prepared for future challenges in health care.

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Furthermore, we serve as mentors and role models for other staff members in the laboratory. Our expertise and leadership can inspire colleagues to adopt more sustainable practices, fostering a culture of sustainability within the entire laboratory team. Through educating and guiding others, we can help create a workplace where sustainability is prioritized at every level, from day-to-day operations, to long-term planning and resource management.

Ultimately, we as a profession are not just responsible for performing diagnostic tests; we are key players in the shaping of a more sustainable future for the laboratory environment. Our contributions help ensure that Biomedical Laboratory Science can continue to advance, not just in terms of health care outcomes, but also in a way that is responsible and sustainable for future generations.

Again, I wish you all a very happy BLS Day!

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Lillsunde Larsson  
President, IFBLS  
15 April 2025