

# IFBLS NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Happy Holidays



Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Board of IFBLS I should like to thank each of you, and each of your members, for their continued commitment to save lives during this Covid-19 pandemic.

At our World Congress held in October in Suwon, South Korea, the main speaker at the plenary session was Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove from the World Health Organization. She acknowledged our profession and the critical role we have played, and will still play, as this pandemic evolves, the virus mutates, and we all grapple with 'long covid'.

The impact of this virus has been enormous with global infection of >650 million cases resulting in >6.5 million deaths. The ability of this virus to evolve coupled with inconsistent use of proven public health measures drove high transmission while low vaccination coverage and lack of access to diagnostics and therapeutics led to significant impact. The importance of sequencing detected cases was stressed as a key measure to track the evolution of this pandemic. In conclusion Dr. Van Kerkhove stated that this pandemic is not over, millions are being reinfected weekly with billions awaiting vaccination. Despite this many countries are dismantling systems and the specialised workforce. Each of us must continue bring our influence to bear on healthcare policy.

Recent data from *Our World in Data* confirms that, in spite of excellent vaccines, the daily case numbers remain significant. Added to that the range of variants being detected in different regions is changing rapidly.

Following this assault on immune systems there are now increasing cases of other respiratory viruses and bacterial infections leading to hospitalisation, and indeed death, of children. Once again, our expertise will be needed to diagnose these illnesses and to monitor the sequelae of severe infection.

As the year draws to a close, and 2023 beckons, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, may it bring you peace and joy.

Marie Culliton  
President

## Newsletter Spotlight

- Holiday Greeting
- IDBLSE - International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Education
- Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series 2023
- IJBLs - International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science
- BLS Day 2023-2024
- IFBLS Membership Fees 2023
- IFBLS Board of Directors 2022-2024

## IDBLSE - International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education

The IDBLSE directory is now available online!

The first "International Directory of Medical Laboratory Science Education" (IDMLSE) was published in 1994, by Britta Karlsson and her colleagues in cooperation with the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (IAMLT) - now IFBLS. Since the beginning several versions have been published, first as hard copies and later as pdf files. In 2002 it was renamed to the IDBLSE. Since 2020 work has been ongoing to build a new platform and present this information online.

The goal of the IDBLSE is to present Biomedical Laboratory Science education by country, along with the historical data from previous editions. Members are invited to visit the new IDBLSE website at <http://idblse.editme.com/> and submit updates for your country.

We look forward to building our online database, should you have questions or comments please email us at [idblse@ifbls.org](mailto:idblse@ifbls.org).

## Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series

In 2022, IFBLS and the Scientific Committee was pleased to develop and launch the inaugural series of *Britta Karlsson Educational Webinars*.

IFBLS and international collaboration were close to Britta's heart, and we are pleased to honour her legacy and deep connection to education through these webinars. This a great opportunity for our members to learn from international speakers.

We are excited about future webinars in 2023 and we encourage you to visit the IFBLS website at [www.ifbls.org](http://www.ifbls.org) for future updates and announcements!

## IJBLs - International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science



We are pleased to promote latest edition of the IJBLs [International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science \(IJBLs\)](#).

The theme: *Current Challenges in Educating Laboratory Professionals and Clinical Practice*.

International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLs) Vol. 11, No. 2: 50-113 October 2022

The IJBLs is an online peer-reviewed journal published bi-annually by the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (IFBLS).

The journal is intended to disseminate information and knowledge to the international laboratory community by accepting a variety of manuscripts for publication. Those manuscripts should be original research articles, literature or mini-reviews, case studies, brief communications and letters to the editor describing original investigations in all fields of Biomedical Laboratory Science.

The journal covers several major disciplines: clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, clinical serology and immunology, hematology, transfusion medicine, clinical virology, clinical bacteriology and mycology, clinical microscopy, histopathology, cytology, quality control and quality management, laboratory management, education and ethics, laboratory safety and any important topics or issue related to the Biomedical Laboratory Science.

Please support IJBLs by sharing this new issue with your colleagues today!

## International BLS Day 2023-2024

International BLS Day, celebrated each year on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, was established at the 1996 IFBLS World Congress in Oslo, Norway and the purpose of the day is to promote and celebrate the key role of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in diagnostic and preventive health care systems.

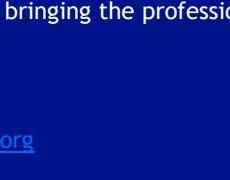
Throughout the years the themes have covered many different topics, all relevant to the scope and competencies of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists. The Covid-19 pandemic has influenced, and maybe changed, the world as we know it. As the virus spread, in many countries the public awareness of diagnostics and Biomedical Laboratory Scientists came into the public eye.

In order to continue the momentum of increasing awareness and recognition of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists, the theme for International BLS Day 15 April 2023 will be:

**Guardians of Quality and Patient Safety: Biomedical Laboratory Scientists**

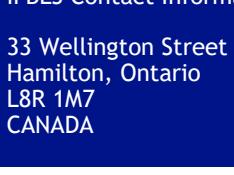
Please mark your calendars for BLS Day 2023. Posters will be available for download on the IFBLS website in the new year!

[More Details](#)



Join us on Facebook and Twitter

## IFBLS Membership Fees for 2023



The 2023 Membership Renewal invoices have been emailed to members!

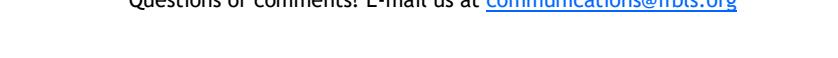
IFBLS is an independent non-governmental association of national societies in 33 countries, representing more than 256,000 Biomedical Laboratory Scientists worldwide. Our mission **"to increase the recognition and contributions of Biomedical Laboratory Science to improve global health"** is at the foundation of our work.

We are grateful to our members for your ongoing support of IFBLS as we continue to promote the image of Biomedical Laboratory Science as the profession at the heart of public health!

Membership fees are due 31 December 2022.

If you require assistance with your membership contact the office at [communications@ifbls.org](mailto:communications@ifbls.org).

## IFBLS Board of Directors 2022-2024



Read more:

- [IFBLS Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [IFBLS Annual and President's Report 2021-2022](#)
- [Communications from the President](#)
- [IFBLS Board of Directors and Committees](#)
- [Britta Karlsson Advancement Program](#)
- [IFBLS Scientific Network of Experts](#)



## 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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