

*Happy Holidays*



Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Board of IFBLS, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each of you and your members for your unwavering support and commitment to delivering high-quality diagnostic laboratory services.

As your newly elected president, I am thrilled to embark on this journey with the board as we work collaboratively to establish our goals and objectives for the next two years. It is truly inspiring to partner with all of you for the continued success and growth of our organisation.

This year, we had the honour of celebrating the 70th anniversary of IFBLS in beautiful Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. During this special occasion, we reflected on the remarkable evolution of our profession over the past seven decades and shared ideas for the future. As we look forward, meetings and congresses remain essential for learning, networking, and collaboration. However, rising costs and the environmental impact of travel encourage us to adopt more sustainable practices. At the same time, we recognise the lasting value of in-person interactions.

Biomedical Laboratory Scientists practice in a manner to ensure information derived from analyzing human specimens is safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable.

In alignment with the WHO Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, we are pleased to announce the theme for BLS Day 2025/2026:

**Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics**

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

Warm regards,

Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson  
President

## Newsletter Spotlight

- Holiday Greeting
- IFBLS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- International BLS Day 2025
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- IFBLS Alternate GAD 2025
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- International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS)
- IFBLS Membership Fees 2025
- Spam Emails
- IFBLS Board of Directors 2024-2026

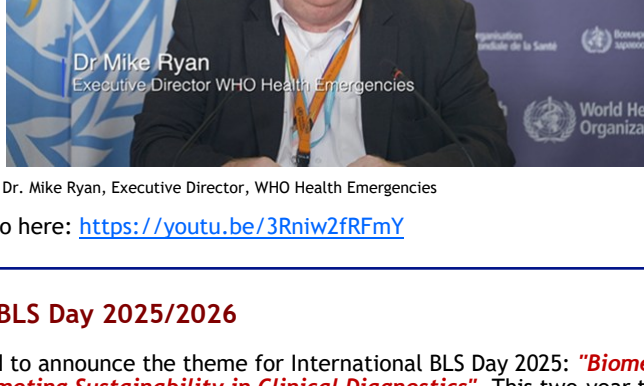
## Celebrating 70 Years of IFBLS

In 2024, the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (IFBLS) proudly celebrated its 70th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, we hosted a one-day symposium in Richmond, Vancouver, Canada, alongside our GAD/Chief Delegates Meeting. The symposium theme, **"Strengthening Diagnostics"** aligned with the WHO Resolution on the same topic.

We were honoured to receive a special message from Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's Executive Director for Health Emergencies, congratulating IFBLS and its members on this historic occasion. Dr. Ryan highlighted our vital contributions to healthcare and public health over the decades, as well as our longstanding collaboration with the WHO as Non-State Actors.

In his message, Dr. Ryan specifically acknowledged the heroic efforts of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the personal sacrifices made by our professionals while ensuring the delivery of safe and reliable diagnostic testing. He emphasised the indispensable role we play in healthcare systems worldwide, underscoring that effective care cannot be achieved without our expertise.

IFBLS extends its sincere gratitude to Dr. Ryan for his recognition and unwavering support of our profession. We encourage you to listen to his inspiring words, share them with your colleagues, and take pride in your contributions to global health.



Dr. Mike Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/3Rniw2FRmY>

## International BLS Day 2025/2026

We are pleased to announce the theme for International BLS Day 2025: **"Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics"**. This two-year theme, as selected by the IFBLS Board of Directors, highlights the vital role of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in advancing clinical health care while prioritising environmental responsibility.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025, let us celebrate together the innovative efforts of BLS professionals worldwide implementing sustainable practices that improve diagnostics and reduce waste, as we continue to make a profound impact on global health and the environment.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions as we work towards a healthier, more sustainable future. Further celebration details will follow, and posters will be available for download on the IFBLS website in the new year.

## IFBLS World Congress 2026

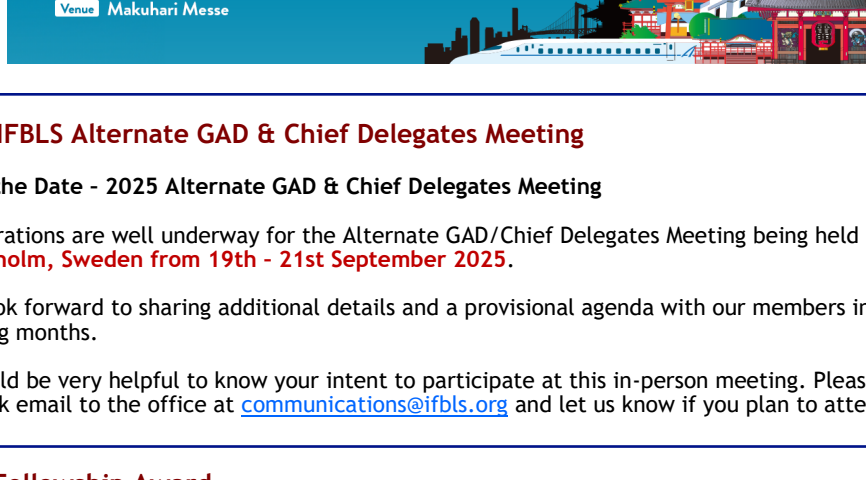
**Save the Date - 36<sup>th</sup> IFBLS World Congress**

We are pleased to announce the **36<sup>th</sup> IFBLS World Congress will take place 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2026** in Chiba, Japan.

Hosted by the Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT), alongside the 75<sup>th</sup> JAMT Congress, the event will be held at the Makuhari Messe.

Theme: **Bridge to the Future of BLS Around the World**

For additional updates visit the official Congress website at: <https://www.ifbls2026.jp/>



## 2025 IFBLS Alternate GAD & Chief Delegates Meeting

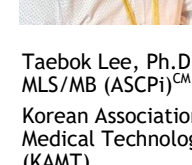
**Save the Date - 2025 Alternate GAD & Chief Delegates Meeting**

Preparations are well underway for the Alternate GAD/Chief Delegates Meeting being held in **Stockholm, Sweden from 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**.

We look forward to sharing additional details and a provisional agenda with our members in the coming months.

It would be very helpful to know your intent to participate at this in-person meeting. Please send a quick email to the office at [communications@ifbls.org](mailto:communications@ifbls.org) and let us know if you plan to attend!

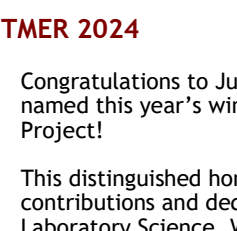
## IFBLS Fellowship Award



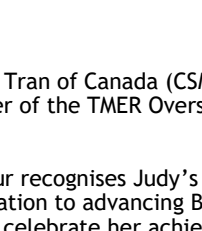
In 2024, the IFBLS Board of Directors was pleased to launch the new IFBLS Fellowship Award, an unprecedented initiative aimed at recognising visionary leaders in the field of Biomedical Laboratory Science worldwide.

This prestigious award acknowledges individuals from IFBLS member associations who have made significant contributions as administrators, educators, clinicians, or researchers, and serves to inspire ongoing excellence within the field. Fellows of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists are honoured with the credential FIFBLS.

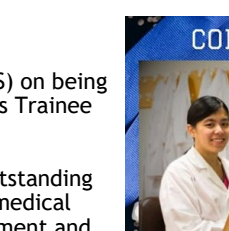
Congratulations to the inaugural recipients of the 2024 IFBLS Fellowship Award! Your outstanding contributions to Biomedical Laboratory Science have set a new benchmark for excellence, and this recognition reflects your dedication and visionary leadership. We are proud to welcome you as the first Fellows of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists:



Taebok Lee, Ph.D., MT, MLS/MB (ASCPi)<sup>CM</sup>  
Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT)



Prof Chuan-Liang Kao, Ph.D.  
Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)



Kyoko Komatsu, Ph.D.  
Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT)



Catherine Otto, Ph.D., MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SHCM, DLMCM  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

## 2024 Award Winners

Congratulations to our award winners recognised at the recent GAD 2024 in Richmond, Vancouver, Canada! Your achievements reflect exceptional dedication and contributions to Biomedical Laboratory Science, inspiring colleagues around the world.

**Nordic Group Award** to Kaptan Singh Sehrawat - India (ICMLS)

**IFBLS Past President's Award** to Tom Stowe - Canada (CSMLS)

**Elisabeth Pletscher Award** to Patricia Tille - USA (ASCLS)

We sincerely appreciate our IFBLS association member sponsors for their generous support in making our Awards Programme possible.

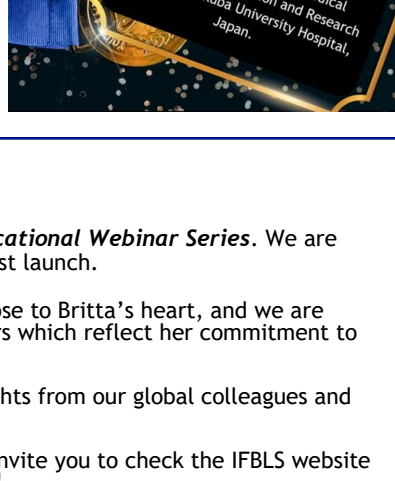


## TMER 2024

Congratulations to Judy Tran of Canada (CSMLS) on being named this year's winner of the TMER Overseas Trainee Project!

This distinguished honour recognises Judy's outstanding contributions and dedication to advancing Biomedical Laboratory Science. We celebrate her achievement and eagerly look forward to hearing about her experiences.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Tsukuba Medical Laboratory of Education and Research (TMER) for their generosity and continued support in making this incredible opportunity possible.



## Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series

In 2022, IFBLS launched the inaugural **Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series**. We are delighted to have held 10 successful webinars since that first launch.

International collaboration and education were passions close to Britta's heart, and we are honoured to celebrate her legacy by offering these webinars which reflect her commitment to both.

These webinars provide a valuable opportunity to gain insights from our global colleagues and incorporate their expertise into your own practice.

We're excited about the webinars scheduled for 2025 and invite you to check the IFBLS website regularly at [www.ifbls.org](http://www.ifbls.org) for updates and announcements!

## IDBLSE - International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education

The IDBLSE Directory is available online!

The International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education (IDBLSE) was first published in 1994 by Britta Karlsson and her colleagues, in collaboration with the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (IAMLT), now known as IFBLS. Initially published as hard copies and later as PDF files, the directory was renamed to the IDBLSE in 2002.

The IDBLSE aims to provide an overview of Biomedical Laboratory Science education worldwide. Please visit the IDBLSE database at <http://idblse.editme.com/> and confirm your country's educational information is correct. An IDBLSE template is available to download should modifications need to be made.

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

## IJBLS - International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science

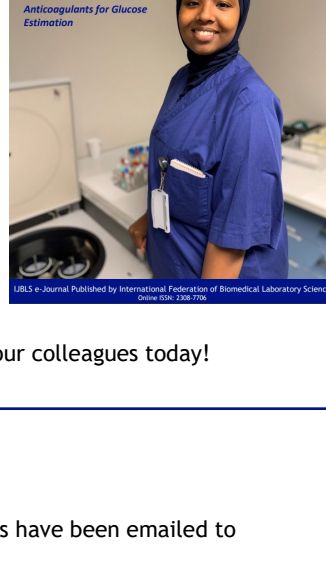
We are pleased to announce the most recent edition of the **International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS) October 2024, Vol. 13, No. 2: 77-157**.

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

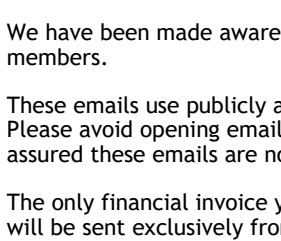
It serves as a platform for disseminating knowledge and information to the global laboratory community, welcoming a variety of manuscript types, including original research articles, literature or mini-reviews, case studies, brief communications, and letters to the editor. These contributions explore original investigations across all areas of Biomedical Laboratory Science.

The journal encompasses a wide range of disciplines, including: clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, clinical serology and immunology, hematology, transfusion medicine, clinical virology, clinical bacteriology and mycology, clinical microbiology, histopathology, cytology, quality control and quality management, laboratory management, education and ethics, laboratory safety and other significant topics related to Biomedical Laboratory Science.

We encourage you to support IJBLS by sharing this new issue with your colleagues today!



## IFBLS Membership Fees for 2025



The 2025 Membership Renewal invoices have been emailed to members!

We sincerely appreciate the continued support of our 40+ National Association members across 37 countries, representing 230,000 BLS professionals worldwide. Together, we promote Biomedical Laboratory Science as the cornerstone of public health.

Membership fees are due by **December 31, 2024**. Thank you to those who have already submitted their fees—we greatly value your support!

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

## Spam Emails

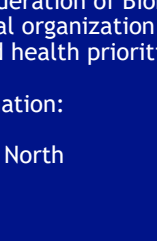
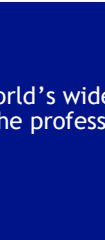
We have been made aware of spam emails falsely claiming to be from IFBLS being sent to our members.

These avoid open emails, attachments, or zip files from unknown or suspicious sources. Be assured these emails are not from IFBLS, the Management Committee, or the Board of Directors.

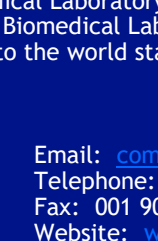
The only financial invoice you will receive from IFBLS relates to annual membership dues, and it will send exclusively from our official email address: [communications@ifbls.org](mailto:communications@ifbls.org). This is the only email address we use for official communications.

If you have any doubts or concerns about an email or communication claiming to be from IFBLS, the Management Committee, or the Board of Directors, please contact us directly at [communications@ifbls.org](mailto:communications@ifbls.org) for verification.

## IFBLS Board of Directors 2024-2026



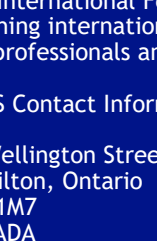
Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson - Lillo-president



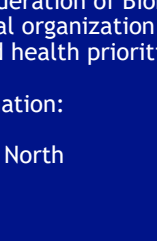
Hassan Aziz - President-Elect



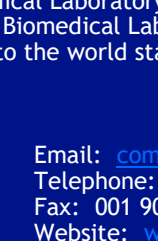
Marie Culliton - Past-President



Bitten Kaanbjerg Kristensen - Board Member



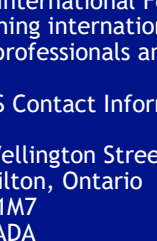
Maria Klement - Board Member



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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