



# Happy Holidays

December 2023

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 provision of quality diagnostic laboratory services.

This year the IFBLS board chose the theme ***Guardians of Quality and Patient Safety: Biomedical Laboratory Scientists*** for International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day.

This theme is central to everything we do in our work.

We are committed to having Biomedical Laboratory Scientists who are highly educated and trained to deliver a clinical laboratory diagnostic service for our people. Each of us knows that behind every sample we analyse is a person who must be cherished.

The work that we do spans life from gestation through birth, childhood, adulthood and beyond

As Biomedical Laboratory Scientists we use scientific evidence in the provision of screening and diagnostic information; specifically, how a laboratory analytic procedure is selected, used and applied in clinical decisions for screening and diagnostic purposes.

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

A Biomedical Laboratory Scientist is a professional who must adapt constantly to many changes in their practice, reflecting the trends in analytical methodologies, and improvements in diagnosis and treatment of disease and health care settings.

Part of this commitment to quality and safety is how we ensure that we remain up to date with developments in laboratory medicine. The *Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series* assists our scientists all over the world to do just this.

Over the past year we undertook a survey on the opportunities you have in your careers in different healthcare settings. The initial results were presented at our meeting in Dublin in October and a paper will be prepared for publication in our Journal, which continues to grow and publish twice a year.

2024 will be our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and sees a change in how we hold our General Assembly of Delegates. The meeting will take place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September in Canada. Further details will be available early in the new year. In addition to our Open Forum, Chief Delegates Meeting and GAD we will have a symposium celebrating the work of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists over the past 70 years and how we can contribute to the work of the WHO in Strengthening Diagnostics. Critically it will also be an election year where you will choose who you wish to lead you into the future.

We are also delighted to announce that the location of our 2025 Alternate GAD meeting will be Stockholm, Sweden and that the 36<sup>th</sup> World Congress will return in 2026 organised by our colleagues in Japan.

As the year draws to a close, and 2024 beckons, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, may it bring you all peace and joy.

Marie Culliton  
President

