

Dear Participants of IFCC-WorldLab-EuroMedLab Berlin 2011,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure to welcoming you here in Berlin, the capital of reunited Germany!

It is a great privilege and honour for us to host this major joint event of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry here in our country. The 21st International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will take place together with the 19th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine as well as with the 8th Annual Meeting of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

We would like to thank the International Scientific Committee (ISC) in bringing together a highly attractive and up-to-date scientific program, consisting of 12 plenary lectures in four sessions, 22 symposia, interactive sessions, 14 workshops and more than 40 industry-sponsored workshops.

Altogether we have invited more than one hundred speakers from around the world to deliver to you all facets of our discipline ranging from basic science and translational research to clinical practice.

In addition to these classical types of scientific sessions, we will also offer new types of formats such as "The Year in Review", "Clinical Case Conferences" and other highly interactive formats to discuss cutting-edge science in our field.

In addition to science, Berlin is one of the most vibrant cities in Germany and Europe and represents, therefore, an ideal platform to provide not only an international exchange of knowledge and ideas, but also to foster friendship and collegiality among the participants from around the world. In addition to the scientific program, a rich social program providing the frame for relaxation and cultural stimulation has been developed for attendees, families and friends. Particularly, we would like to draw your attention to the Congress Evening on Wednesday with an exclusive visit to the Museum Island, a World Heritage.

The motto of our conference, **Fit for future - Help healing the World**, emphasizes and underscores the importance of laboratory medicine in patient care. However, we all know that this goal is very ambitious and many research efforts are necessary to eventually reach this equation.

The realization of this Congress is only possible with the generous support of the Diagnostic Industry. We would like to thank all sponsoring companies for their help and willingness to actively participate in this event. Please use the time slots for visiting the large exhibition area which offers a view on the most recent technological and diagnostic advancement in laboratory medicine!

Therefore, a warm welcome to Berlin!

Harald Renz
President

Rudolf Tauber
President

