

# NEWS 2011



N° 1 - December 2009

## WHAT IS IT WORLDLAB NEWS?

*Worldlab News* is a periodical issue that reports on the developments of the scientific program and of the organisation of the Congress;

*Worldlab News* is a handy instrument to get in touch with Berlin and the forthcoming Congress in real time;

*Worldlab News* will be sent to IFCC National Representatives, to all Officers involved in IFCC, EFCC, to IFCC Corporate Members and other Companies, and to everyone who has shown interest in the Congress;

*Worldlab News* may be freely quoted in journals or newsletters and even photocopied, provided the editor (IFCC-Worldlab-EuroMedlab Berlin 2011 Organizing Secretariat, Milan, Italy) is mentioned.

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21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Clinical Chemistry  
and Laboratory Medicine

19<sup>th</sup> IFCC-EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry  
and Laboratory Medicine

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry  
and Laboratory Medicine

**Berlin, Internationales Congress Centrum**

15-19 May 2011

## Presidents' Invitation

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Congress Organizing Committee, it is a great pleasure to invite you to the joint **IFCC WorldLab and EuroMedLab Berlin 2011 Congress**. It is a great privilege for us to host this major joint event of Laboratory Medicine in the capital of Germany in May 2011. The 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will take place together with the 19<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine as well as with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

An **attractive scientific program** will be developed together with the International Scientific Committee and the International Scientific Advisory Board which represent IFCC, EFCC and DGKL. In addition to the classical types of scientific sessions including plenary, symposium, workshop and poster presentation, we will also offer new types of scientific sessions such as "the year in review", pro-con-sessions, clinical case conferences. All of this is designed to develop a highly interactive forum to discuss cutting-edge science in our field.

Berlin is one of the most vibrant cities in Germany and Europe and is centered in the heart of Europe. Berlin is therefore an ideal platform to provide not only an international exchange of knowledge and ideas, but also to foster communication of participants from all parts of the world. The month May is among the best time of the year to come to Berlin. In addition to the scientific program and to the exhibition a rich **social program** which will provide the frame for relaxing, stimulating and exciting experiences for the attendees, families and friends.

The **International Conference Center (ICC)** is conveniently located to the airport (10 min from Tegel Airport), is easily accessible by public transportation and taxi and is almost in the center of the city.

One of the unique features of Berlin is the availability of a high number of hotel rooms, ranging from 5 to 2 star categories, all of them very reasonably priced. This will allow young physicians and scientists to come to Berlin at low costs. Therefore, one major focus of the conference will be aimed at **young scientists and young physicians** from around the world. Particularly for the next generation of specialists in the field of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry, we will provide a forum for scientific and social exchange.

For all of these reasons, we are cordially inviting you and your colleagues to come to Berlin together with your friends and families. Your active participation in the scientific program will be the fundament for a successful event in 2011. Mark your calendar already now for this important meeting!

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your families in Berlin.

With warm regards,

*Harald Renz*  
President

*Rudolf Tauber*  
President

**NEW DATES OF THE CONGRESS**  
**15 - 19 MAY 2011**

# COMMITTEES

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HARALD RENZ  
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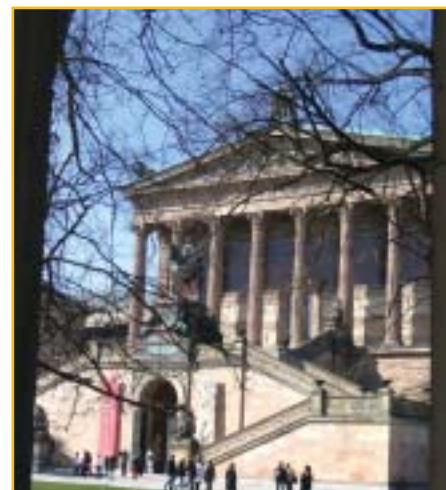
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# HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Congress will be supported by

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Further information will be given in the next issues as well as on the website of the Congress.

# Various Info

## Industrial Partners

On December 15, 2009, the Presidents of the Congress invited to Berlin all companies in the field. The aim of the meeting was the presentation of the sponsor-packages. An inspection visit of the congress venue was organized as well. About 30 companies attended the meeting.



## WEBSITES

The official website of the Congress

[www.berlin2011.org](http://www.berlin2011.org)

will be constantly kept updated and we advise you to browse them frequently for any relevant information about the Congress you may need.

## Important Dates in 2011

January

15

**Poster Abstract  
Deadline**

March

30

**Deadline for Reduced  
Fee Registration**

# A German Christmas



## Christmas Presents - Weihnachtsgeschenke

Christmas starts early in Germany. On the night of December 5th-6th, *Nikolaustag*, St. Nicholas Day, children leave their shoes or boots outside the front door.

That night, Santa Claus, Nikolaus, visits and fills them with chocolates, oranges and nuts if they've been good. Nikolaus also has a sidekick, in the form of his servant *Knecht Ruprecht*, who leaves bundles of twigs in the shoes if the children have been naughty and are listed in his 'black book'.

In some parts of the country, it's believed the Christ Child, *das Christkind* sends a messenger on Christmas Eve, an angel in a white robe and crown, bearing gifts. There's also a figure called *der Weihnachtsmann*, who looks like Santa Claus and also brings presents.

In some homes, it's traditional for parents to prepare a room for Christmas and then lock it up. A bell is rung as a signal for children to enter the room where they are delighted to find the tree lit up with presents awaiting them underneath it. There are also fruit, nuts, marzipan, chocolate and biscuits to eat, carols are sung, the Christmas story is read and children open their presents. This magical event, for many families, takes place on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, before attending mass at 4pm, returning home at 6pm to eat, read the Christmas story and then open their presents.



## Food and Drink - Essen und Trinken

The Germans often have special baking evenings for making spiced cakes, cookies and gingerbread houses. The German Christmas tree pastry, *das Christbaumgebäck*, is a white dough which is moulded into shapes and baked to make tree decorations.

On Christmas Eve, there's an evening feast, generally of carp and potato salad - meat is avoided for religious reasons.

On Christmas Day the family tucks into suckling pig or roasted goose, white sausage, macaroni salad, and regional dishes, *der Christstollen*, long loaves of bread with nuts, raisins, lemon and dried fruit, *der Lebkuchen*, ginger spice cookies,

*das Marzipan* and *der Dresdner Stollen*, a moist, heavy bread filled with fruit and marzipan.

# LIST OF SPONSORS

as of December 2009

## PLATINUM

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## GOLD

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## BRONZE

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*The Organizing and  
the Scientific  
Committees together  
with the  
Organizing Secretariat  
wish you a  
Merry Christmas*