INNOVATION FORUM

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

SETS

AGENDA

DRIVING INNOVATION, SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MODERN LABORATORY

28th October 2026

GRIFOLS

INNOVATION FORUM

Click on the names to learn more

27TH OCTOBER 2026

19:30 h	**Dinner** NH Collection Frankfurt Spin Tower (restaurant)

28TH OCTOBER 2026

8:00 – 8:30 h	**Registration & Welcome** Empire State & Chrysler room, NH Collection Frankfurt Spin Tower
8:30 – 8:45 h	**Opening Remarks** Dr. Laziza Amniai, Grifols
8:45 – 9:30 h	**From Vision to Reality: Operationalizing the Digital Blood Center** Dr. Luis Larrea, Spain
9:30 – 10:15 h	**From Reactive to Proactive: Using Big Data to Find Novel Threats to Transfusion Safety** Dr. Gustaf Edgren, Sweden
10:15 – 11:00 h	**Transforming Transfusion Medicine Through Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, and Future Directions** Dr. Arwa Al-Riyami, Oman
11:00 – 11:30 h	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:15 h	**Type and Screen: Diagnosing the Threats to Healthcare Delivery** Mr. Bernardus Kokx, Netherlands
12:15 – 13:00 h	**Designer Red Blood Cells: Engineering the Future of Immunohematology** Dr. Greg Denomme, USA
13:00 – 13:45 h	Lunch
13:45 – 14:30 h	**The Environmental Impact of Laboratories and How to Reduce it** Prof. Tuija Männistö, Finland
14:30 – 15:15 h	**Development of RCI Assist: Digital Innovation to Improve Transfusion Laboratory Safety** Mrs. Helen Thom, UK
15:15 – 15:30 h	Coffee Break
15:30 – 15:55 h	**Donation 4.0: Shaping the Future of the Donation Ecosystem through Innovation and Data Science** Dr. Iris García Martínez, Spain
15:55 – 16:15 h	**Implementing an AI-Powered Donor Interview Documentation Assistant: From Development to Real-World Deployment** Mr. Emili Colom Gordillo, Spain
16:15 – 16:45 h	**Panel Discussion: Connecting Innovation, Security & Sustainability in the Future Lab** All
16:45 h	**Closing Remarks & Departure**

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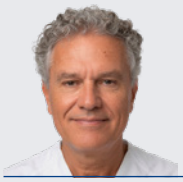

DR. LUIS LARREA

Transfusion Center of the Valencian Community (TCVC), Valencia, Spain

Dr. Luis Larrea is Head of the Processing Service at the Transfusion Center of the Valencian Community (TCVC) and President of the Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion and Cellular Therapy (SETS). A hematologist with extensive expertise in blood component processing and transfusion safety, his work focuses on improving the quality, traceability and efficiency of blood services. He has a particular interest in the application of artificial intelligence and electronic data exchange to transfusion medicine and blood safety. Dr. Larrea also contributes to international initiatives with organizations including the Council of Europe and the European Blood Alliance. His scientific work spans blood component processing and storage, pathogen-reduction strategies, and cellular therapy, with the aim of translating technological and operational innovation into safer and more effective transfusion practice.

DR. GUSTAF EDGREN

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Gustaf Edgren is Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Karolinska Institutet and a board-certified physician and consultant in cardiology and internal medicine. His research focuses on transfusion safety and epidemiology, using advanced analytical methods and large-scale Nordic healthcare data to address clinically relevant questions. He is Principal Investigator of SCANDAT, the Scandinavian Donations and Transfusions Database, a leading resource for studying long-term outcomes and hemovigilance after blood donation and transfusion. Dr. Edgren has led an independent research group since 2012 and has authored close to 150 peer-reviewed publications. His work has received support from the Swedish Research Council, the US National Institutes of Health and the European Research Council, including a 2025 ERC Consolidator Grant for advanced studies in transfusion epidemiology. In 2024, he received the International Hemovigilance Network Award for contributions to the advancement of hemovigilance.

DR. ARWA AL RIYAMI

University Medical City / Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Oman

Dr. Arwa Al Riyami is a Senior Consultant Hematopathologist at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital and the National Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Center at University Medical City, Oman. She trained in Hematological Pathology at the University of British Columbia and completed a fellowship in Cellular Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Al Riyami is ISBT Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region and serves on the ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics and the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board. She is also an AABB assessor, chairs the Research Subcommittee of the AABB Global Transfusion Forum Steering Committee, and is a member of the WHO Advisory Group on Blood Regulation, Availability and Safety. Her professional interests include hematopathology, transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, medical education and research.

BERNARDUS KOKX

Philips, Netherlands

Ben is a healthcare and IoT cybersecurity expert who actively leads and contributes to numerous industry associations, standards development organizations, and public-private partnerships at the European and international levels. He holds leadership roles in the cybersecurity focus groups of MedTech Europe and COCIR and is also a member of the ENISA Advisory Group.

At Philips, Ben brings more than 20 years of product security experience, ranging from serving as a product security and privacy officer for one of the X-ray business units to leading Philips' global Product Security Policy and Process Framework for more than a decade. He is currently focused on regulatory and standards activities, dedicating most of his time to convening CEN/CENELEC working groups that are developing harmonized standards for the European Cyber Resilience Act, alongside his continued work on healthcare-related international standards and various public-private and industry working groups.

DR. GREG DENOMME

Medical Affairs, Grifols Diagnostics Solutions,Inc. Emeryville, USA

Dr. Denomme is a clinical and academic trained scientist. He has advanced certification in immunohematology, a doctorate in microbiology and immunology, and completed postdoctoral fellowships in platelet immunology and in pathology and molecular medicine. Past academic appointments include Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Toronto and Senior Investigator with Versiti's Blood Research Institute. Dr. Denomme is Director of Medical Affairs (BTS Global) at Grifols Diagnostics Solutions, Inc. in Emeryville, California. His lifelong career in transfusion medicine integrates blood group genetics and immunohematology to the study of blood group antigen expression and the impact on immune-mediated hemolytic disorders.

PROF. TUIJA MÄNNISTÖ

Professor of clinical chemistry at the University of Eastern Finland

Tuija Männistö, MD, PhD, is a professor of clinical chemistry at the University of Eastern Finland. She is a My Green Lab Accredited Professional, member of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Task Force on Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine (see Task Force Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine (TF-EILM) - IFCC) and a climate physician. She has published papers on the effects of air pollutants on health outcomes and on the impact of laboratories on the environment.

In her talk she will discuss the environmental impact of clinical laboratories, how to mitigate it, and describe the work done under the IFCC Task force.

HELEN THOM

NHS Blood & Transplant, UK

Drawing on an extensive career in transfusion science and healthcare leadership, Helen Thom is a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science, Chartered Scientist and Health and Care Professions Council state registered Biomedical Scientist with over a decade of experience at NHS Blood and Transplant. Beginning her Biomedical Science career in Red Cell Immunohaematology, she specialised in transfusion science before moving into patient blood management, customer services and national service development roles. Her current role is a Pathology Business Development Manager for NHS Blood and Transplant, supporting innovative and collaborative pathology services. Helen is a member of the Institute of Biomedical Science Specialist Advisory Panel for Transfusion Science and is passionate about improving patient care through partnership, education and service transformation.

DR. IRIS GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ

Banc de Sang i Teixits (BST), Catalonia, Spain

Dr. Iris Garcia Martínez holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Biology, a Master's degree in Neuroscience, and a PhD in Genetics. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Blood and Tissue Bank of Catalonia (BST) and combines expertise in genetics, data science, and transfusion medicine. Her research focuses on investigating the genetic basis of hereditary and complex bleeding disorders, and on applying data-driven approaches to optimize the blood donation-to-transfusion chain. She has led and contributed to strategic projects aimed at improving donor recruitment, campaign planning, and the efficiency and sustainability of blood services. Her work combines biomedical research and advanced analytics to support evidence-based decision-making in healthcare.

EMILI COLOM GORDILLO

Banc de Sang i Teixits (BST), Catalonia, Spain

Emili Colom is a data and analytics professional with a strong background in science, technology and healthcare. He holds a degree in Physics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and a Master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). He spent more than ten years working for leading business and technology consulting firms, including SDG Group, IBM and Accenture, where he managed and developed Business Intelligence, data analytics and data science projects. During this period, he worked extensively with major public healthcare organizations in Catalonia, including the Catalan Health Institute (ICS) and CatSalut. For more than three years, he has been part of Banc de Sang i Teixits (BST), where he currently leads the Data Department and drives data, analytics, Business Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence initiatives across the organization.

MODERATOR

DR. LAZIZA AMNIAI

Sr Director, Assay development Immunohematology

Dr. Laziza Amniai is the Senior Director of Sr Director, Assay development IH at Diagnostic Grifols in Barcelona. She leads innovative projects in immunohematology, focusing on antigen and antibody identification in the field of immunohematology as well as device development. Dr. Amniai holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology and a Chemical Engineering degree. She has a strong track record in building and managing high-performing R&D teams and driving global impact on diagnostics products. Her expertise spans immunohematology, diagnostics, and technology transfer in countries. Dr. Amniai is a strategic leader who promotes global collaborations and represents Grifols at international conferences.

GNL-DS3-2500022

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