

## Obituary

Mario Plebani and Giuseppe Lippi

**Professor Howard A. Morris**<https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2019-0412>

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that on April 18, 2019, Prof. Howard Morris suddenly passed away from an acute heart attack. Howard Morris was Professor of Laboratory Medicine at the University of South Australia, and Clinical Scientist in Chemical Pathology at SA Pathology, Adelaide, South Australia, and was currently serving as President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Within the IFCC he also served as Vice-President between 2012 and 2014, he was the Secretary of the Scientific Division between 2003 and 2008, Chair the IFCC-International Osteoporosis Foundation Joint WG on Standardization of Bone Turnover Markers between 2012 and 2017, and member of the IFCC Task Forces on the Global Campaign on Diabetes Mellitus (between 2003 and 2008) and on International Clinical Liaison (between 2009 and 2011). His professional interests mainly encompassed calcium and bone physiology, the pathophysiology of metabolic bone disease and nutritional strategies for prevention of osteoporosis (with special emphasis on the effects of vitamin D and dietary calcium and estrogen effects on the skeleton), along with quality improvement in pathology and laboratory medicine and reinforcement of the value of this profession

within healthcare systems. Within the Asia Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB), Prof. Morris served as Chair of the Scientific Committee (2002–2004) and Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee and as a Member of the Organizing Committee for the 10th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (2002–2005). He was the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB) representative to the Councils of the IFCC and APFCB (1998–2004), served on AACB Council (1998–2002) and was editor of *Clinical Biochemist Reviews* (1994–2002). Prof. Morris was awarded an AACB Outstanding Service Medallion (2003), the W. Roman Travelling Lectureship (2004) and the Louis Avioli Memorial Lectureship by the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (2009).

Over many years, Prof. Morris gained a lot of experience in clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine, by directing an endocrinology laboratory of a large public pathology service, as well as serving as Director of a major research institute (Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science). Throughout his brilliant career, Prof. Morris led an active research team that received over \$10 million in competitive research grants. He also authored over 240 scientific articles published in indexed journals. Along with many chapters and books, his works have reached nearly 10,000 citations, with an outstanding value of 55 on the H-index. The last work that he has co-authored, designed to improve the standardization of 25-hydroxyvitamin D measurement, is a paradigm of his commitment to improving clinical efficacy of laboratory diagnostics in musculoskeletal health [1]. It was with great honor and pleasure that *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)* published a joint International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and IFCC position paper on bone marker standards in osteoporosis, which was co-authored by Prof. Morris [2]. This article has been widely downloaded from the website of the journal and is also one of the most cited papers in the history of *CCLM*, with nearly 120 citations so far.

Above all, we would like to remind readers that Prof. Morris was an archetype for all laboratory professionals worldwide. Along with his paramount experience in pathology and laboratory medicine, his exceptional communication skills and his wise relational talent, he always remained modest, approachable and helpful. Prof. Morris

will be remembered with love, affection and great respect by all those who knew him, especially by his multitude of friends and colleagues.

## References

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2. Vasikaran S, Cooper C, Eastell R, Griesmacher A, Morris HA, Trenti T, et al. International Osteoporosis Foundation and International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine position on bone marker standards in osteoporosis. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2011;49:1271–4.

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**Corresponding author: Prof. Mario Plebani**, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University-Hospital of Padova, 35128 Padova, Italy, Phone: +390498212792, Fax: +39049663240, E-mail: mario.plebani@unipd.it

**Giuseppe Lippi**  
University of Verona, Section of Clinical Biochemistry, Verona, Italy