13.01. Task Forces

13.01.01. Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

Membership

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<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
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<td>D. Bruns</td>
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<td>M.J. McQueen</td>
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</table>

Aims

- To increase awareness among Laboratory Medicine Professionals of ethical issues
- To encourage the practice of Laboratory Medicine to the highest ethical standards
- To develop position papers on appropriate ethics policies issues
- To provide a voice for Laboratory Medicine on ethics policies
- To link Laboratory Medicine, ethics and the public interest

Objectives

- Recognising that IFCC is formed by representatives from Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in more than 70 countries plus more than 30 corporate members, it is unlikely that position papers will have the complete agreement of all of our members. They are position papers and should not be put to a vote. The objective is to produce a statement with widespread support from the members of the Federation.
- A secondary objective is to ensure that each paper is published in professional journal(s) and that it is also made available to the general public.

Background

During the term 1997-1999, the EB of the IFCC accepted the principle of establishing an Ethics Committee. It was identified that the greatest need was not for a Committee that would look inwardly at personal and professional ethics or codes of behaviour, since these can best be dealt with at the level of the individual society or country. During the past 20 years there has been an increasing number of pre-symptomatic tests that can be offered to the community. Some of the challenges have been in laboratory organisation and testing but these are minor compared to broader issues affecting those targeted for screening and the general community. DNA testing combined with newer genetic and biochemical techniques raise significant issues of community awareness, education, informed consent and pre- and post-test counselling. The genetic information stored and used must also have safeguards that ensure there are no stigmatisation and discrimination issues. In various parts of the world individual professional organisations have raised awareness of these issues among their members and have produced documents addressing some of the key issues. In general, the Laboratory Medicine community has not provided organised discussion in which the members can actively participate. There has been even less effort at the international level to create a collective voice for Laboratory Medicine. Laboratory Medicine organisations have a goal and responsibility to advance the interest of their members but the IFCC strategic vision also clearly states that the ultimate goal is to benefit the health and well-being of the patients and communities we serve. This test of our professional responsibility demands that we do not simply perform tests and use technology uncritically. We cannot be isolated from the impact of our work on society.
Chapter 13: Task Forces and Special Projects

13.01.02. Task Force on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM)

Improving diagnosis and management of patients from birth to adolescence

**Membership**

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The purpose of this Task Force is to develop procedures and processes to improve the diagnosis and management of patients from birth to adolescence.

**This Task Force will:**
- Coordinate activities worldwide directed towards the establishment of reference intervals for laboratory test results in pediatric patients of all age groups
- Form a sound support basis for the continuation of the International Congresses of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine which have been very successful over the past 25 years
- Create a widespread network of scientists working in laboratories specialized in Pediatric Medicine

**Why Pediatric laboratory medicine?**
Children are not simply small adults - this holds especially true when they become patients. Pediatric patients comprise a group with special problems, also with regards to the results of laboratory investigations.

Local and regional activities exist in which an exchange of ideas and concepts for the role of the laboratory in the care of children’s health take place, but in general, these activities are not linked to each other. In spite of a variety of activities in the past years, reference intervals for laboratory test results are often not very well defined for the pediatric population, a situation which is even worse in adolescent medicine.

The subject of the Task Force is obviously relevant to large numbers of people - a substantial proportion of our patients are children. Especially in pediatric patients, the role of the laboratory is crucial for diagnosis and follow-up, e.g., in metabolic disorders or genetically determined diseases.

**Activities of the Task Force will include:**
- Coordination, promotion and development of existing IFCC SD research activities associated with reference intervals. Existing regional groups within IFCC, e.g., the Nordic States (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland) are currently engaged in the development of Pediatric Reference values. By close interaction with this group and the IFCC SD, the Task Force will expand these activities to other regions of the world
- Integration and eventually merging of the Board of the International Association of Pediatric Medicine into the Task Force and continue to motivate the then former members of this Association worldwide to support the activities of the Task Force
- Establishment of a concept for the next International Congress of Pediatric Medicine, to be held in 2007. As the preferred setting, the Congress will be held in conjunction with an IFCC meeting or a meeting taking place under the auspices of IFCC
- Regularly publish reports on the progress of the Task Force’s activities and other relevant articles in the field of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine in the IFCC Journal.

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**List of Addresses**

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Past-Chair, Task Force on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine
13.01.03. Task Force on Pharmacogenetics (Integrated Project) – (TF-PG)

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Aims

The aim of the Task Force is to facilitate integration of pharmacogenetic testing into routine diagnostics at the appropriate quality standards.

Objectives

1. Obtain information on the potential clinical utility of specific pharmacogenetic tests
2. Obtain information on current perception of genetic variants to be tested
3. Obtain information on clinical recommendations based on the pharmacogenetic test results from the clinical disciplines involved.
4. Discuss and weigh the information obtained.
5. Prepare guiding documents, with participation of the clinical disciplines involved, per drug/gene combination for pharmacogenetic testing, addressing who to test, how to test, how to interpret and how to report.
6. Identify Pharmacogenetics Expert Labs, in collaboration with the Committee for Molecular Diagnostics.

Delivery

1. Network of pharmacogenetic experts from in- and outside Clinical Chemistry.
2. Network of specific contact persons within the relevant clinical disciplines.
3. Guidance documents: TPMT testing and 6-mercaptopurine, CYP2C19 testing and clopidogrel, CYP2D6 testing and tamoxifen.
4. Presentation of ongoing work of IFCC TF-PG in presentations and posters at different conferences.

Accountability

The Task Force is directly responsible to the EB through the President.

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13.01.04. Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease (Integrated Project) – (TF-CKD)

Membership

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Aims

To promote, support and co-ordinate international activities related to laboratory testing in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

Objectives

1. Obtain information on the current state of co-ordinated national and international activity in the area of pathology testing in CKD.
2. Assess current best practice in CKD-related testing.
3. Assess best practice for implementation of best practice for CKD-related testing.
4. Provide assistance where required for member organizations and others in planning and implementing CKD testing policies and guidelines.
5. Identify other relevant areas of laboratory related issues in CKD.

Delivery

1. A report on the current status of guidelines on CKD pathology testing.
3. A review of best practice processes for implementing change in CKD-related pathology testing.
4. An assessment of areas of likely relevant future activity in CKD testing.

Accountability

The Task Force is directly responsible to the EB through the President.
Chapter 13: Task Forces and Special Projects

13.01.05. Task Force on Implementation of HbA1c Standardisation (Integrated Project) – (TF-HbA1c)

**Membership**

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The Task Force for HbA1C (TF-HbA1c) is an Integrated Project that involves input from a number of IFCC functional units and also from clinical experts in the field of diabetes.

**Aim**

To establish an interface between IFCC and its National / Corporate Members and the clinical users of HbA1C to enable the implementation of a scientifically sound reporting structure for HbA1C standardized to the IFCC Reference Measurement Procedure.

**Objectives**

- To establish a small group of clinical and scientific experts (maximum of 5); consider geographical balance.
- To act as an advisory board to the HbA1C Reference Laboratory Network.
- Develop scientific links between National Networks.
- Advise manufacturers on delivery objectives.
- To establish links with professional bodies (scientific and clinical) to enable transition of reportable HbA1c values.
- To help implement the consensus statement.
- Monitor the introduction of the Consensus statement globally.
- Develop quality targets for the measurement of HbA1c, and on basis of these targets, and in conjunction with professional bodies, advise on the use of HbA1c for monitoring, diagnosis and screening of diabetes and glucose intolerance.

**Delivery**

- Develop educational material; consider translating into various languages (e learning).
- Monitor developments through surveys.
- Attend international / National meetings to provide advice and guidance based on best practice.
- Work with Manufacturers.
- Work with scientific bodies to establish workshops.
- Develop a website.

**Accountability**

The Task Force is directly responsible to the EB through the President.

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Objectives

- To facilitate opportunities for young scientists to train in modern, state of the art laboratory practice
- To disseminate and promote innovation and high quality scientific and clinical practice standards
- To disseminate and support modern information technology to establish formal and informal networks to facilitate the communication between young scientists who are involved in laboratory medicine. Linkage with national society young scientist initiatives will be encouraged
- To encourage young scientists to share experience of laboratory medicine and other healthcare practice around the world
- To disseminate and promote innovation and high quality scientific and clinical practice standards
- To facilitate opportunities for young scientists to train in modern, state of the art laboratory practice

Aim

The aim of TF-YS is to ensure that young scientists make a significant and growing contribution to the activities of IFCC and to the promotion of laboratory medicine at the centre of healthcare.

Membership

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>J. Wijaya</td>
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Accountability

The TF-YS will communicate mainly through modern electronic and social networking media. Communication will include all core and corresponding members of TF-YS and may develop into other networks as agreed by TF-YS. Core membership of TF-YS will ensure geographical representation and linkage to national societies that have experience of working with young scientists. TF-YS will also have an extensive number of corresponding members. All IFCC Full Members and Corporate Members will be invited to nominate young scientists to serve as core or corresponding members of TF-YS. Membership of TF-YS will be confirmed by the IFCC Executive Board on the recommendation of the TF-YS Chair. TF-YS will also have an extensive number of corresponding members. All IFCC Full Members and Corporate Members will be invited to nominate young scientists to serve as core or corresponding members of TF-YS. Membership of TF-YS will be confirmed by the IFCC Executive Board on the recommendation of the TF-YS Chair. TF-YS will be able to communicate with and request support from other IFCC functional units.
13.01.07. Task Force on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers (TF-CB)

Membership

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<tr>
<td>M. Than</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2011-01-2013 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Terms of Reference
- Education: Established and novel cardiac biomarkers
- Biochemistry of cardiac biomarkers
- Clinical use of cardiac biomarkers: risk stratification, diagnostics, therapy
- Laboratory issues on cardiac biomarkers: 99th percentiles, delta values, biological variation, quality specifications of assays

Current Projects
- Development of educational materials about high-sensitive troponin assays use.
Chapter 13: Task Forces and Special Projects

13.01.08. Task Force on Point of Care Testing (TF-POCT)

**Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Time in Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Tirimacco</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>AU</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 03–2014 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.I. Khan</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 03–2014 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.J. Kost</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 03–2014 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Pernet</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 03–2014 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Skurup</td>
<td>Corp. Rep. Member</td>
<td>DK</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 03–2014 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Terms of Reference**

1. To promote quality in the use, performance, interpretation and reporting of POCT across the full spectrum of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.
2. To create a forum for high level discussion on a wide range of POCT related topics.
3. To provide international leadership for developing the clinical practice of POCT in Laboratory Medicine.

**Objectives**

1. Creation of a communication network for specialists who are expert in POCT. To include other POCT specialist groups; expert individuals in IFCC Full, Affiliate and Corporate Members; regulatory agencies and users of POCT.
2. Definition, implementation, evaluation and reporting of a range of defined POCT projects. To include projects that address quality in POCT performance, the appropriate clinical use of POCT, connectivity and the cost effectiveness of POCT. Projects should complement rather than duplicate projects being undertaken by other POCT specialists.
3. Preparation of educational support material for those using or considering the use of POCT.
4. Creation of a library of publications that document the clinical effectiveness of POCT and the impact on clinical outcomes. To include clinical chemistry, haematology, microbiology and other disciplines of laboratory medicine, as appropriate.

**Accountability**

TF-POCT will report directly to the Executive Board.

**List of Addresses**

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- **Dr. Rolf HINZMANN**
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  e-mail: trevor.allison@siemens.com

13.01.09. Task Force on the Impact of Laboratory Medicine on Clinical Management and Outcomes (TF-ICO)

**Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Time in Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Hallworth</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2012 01–2014 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Terms of Reference**

1. Evaluate the available evidence supporting the impact of laboratory medicine in healthcare (a critical review of published literature) with a focus on data published since 2007.
2. Develop the study design for new retrospective and prospective studies to generate evidence-based data to support IFCC promotional activities to the healthcare community and the public.

**Current Projects**

In development.

**Accountability**

TF-ICO will report directly to the Executive Board.

**List of Addresses**

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  Tel.: +33 01 49 28 22 20
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  e-mail: pascal.pernet@aphp.fr

- **Mrs. Anne SKURUP**
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  Mobile +45 2014 4074
  e-mail: anne.skurup@radiometer.dk
13.02. IFCC PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (PEP)

IFCC offers a small number of scholarships each year to facilitate professional exchange programmes for young scientists. The purpose of professional exchange programmes is to:
- Promote international co-operation between laboratories
- Facilitate the exchange of young laboratory scientists between IFCC Member societies
- Share high level scientific or management skills
- Introduce new or improved scientific or management skills to the applicant’s laboratory.

Applicants for an IFCC professional exchange programme will:
- be a member of an IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society
- be aged under 40 years at the time of the exchange programme
- have a specific project to complete in a designated host laboratory

Applications must have the support of both partner laboratories.

Duration of exchanges: 3 months maximum.

Successful applicants will be entitled to receive economy return travel expenses from his/her home base to the host laboratory and for a maximum of three months. At the completion of a professional exchange programme the successful applicant is required to:
- Write a short report of his/her experience for publication in IFCC News.
- Where appropriate, submit a scientific paper for publication in the electronic journal of IFCC.

These exchange programmes are open for laboratories in all countries where an IFCC member society is active.

For complete details of these programmes and how to apply for participation, please visit the IFCC website at http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/pep-professional-exchange-programme/.

IFCC has developed two categories of professional exchange programme:
- Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)
- Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP)

13.02.01 Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)

The purpose of a PSEP is to exchange or develop high level scientific information or skills. Applications for a PSEP may come from any IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society.

Examples of suitable PSEP projects include (but are not restricted to):
- Conduct of a collaborative research project between base and host laboratories;
- Use of a method or technique not available in the base laboratory in order to complete a research project;
- Learning a new method or technique in the host laboratory which will be introduced into the base laboratory after the PSEP is complete;
- Completion of a collaborative evidence-based scientific project such as the preparation of a systematic review;

Scientific publications resulting from this exchange programme have to acknowledge IFCC’s support.

13.02.02. Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP)

The purpose of a PMEP is to develop appropriate quality management skills in order to improve the performance and quality of service offered to patients by the base laboratory.

Applications for a Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP) may only come from IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national societies that are in countries where quality management and/or laboratory accreditation are at an early stage of development.

Examples of PMEP include:
- Acquiring skills to introduce effective internal quality control;
- Acquiring skills to introduce an external quality assurance scheme to a country;
- Acquiring skills to introduce quality management to the base laboratory;
- Preparation to enable the base laboratory to apply for laboratory accreditation in line with ISO Standard 15189;

The host laboratory for a PMEP will normally be in the same IFCC Region as the applicant.

13.03. IFCC-Roche Travel Scholarships

IFCC-Roche travel scholarships are available to allow young scientists from developing countries to participate in relevant international scientific congresses and conferences. Applicants should be working in a developing country and should be less than 40y of age on 1 January of the year in which the congress or conference occurs. Priority will be given to applicants who are submitting an abstract to the meeting.

IFCC-Roche travel scholarships may be used for any relevant international scientific congress or conference. Each year IFCC promotes the scheme and lists some IFCC meetings that do qualify, but this list is not exclusive. It is a condition of the scheme that the congress or conference should take place in a country other than that in which the applicant works.

The IFCC-Roche travel scholarship will provide funding towards the cost of economy return travel and accommodation. IFCC will seek to ensure that scholarship recipients receive free registration for the congress or conference that they attend.

Applicants will be required to complete the application form that can be obtained from the IFCC Office (ifcc@ifcc.org). The completed application should be submitted, together with supporting information, to the IFCC Office.

IFCC acknowledges the generous sponsorship from Roche Diagnostics GmbH for this scheme.