Chapter 14
IFCC Statutes and Rules
Revision of Statutes and Rules during 2012

The 2011 Council Meeting took a number of important decisions on the composition of the Executive Board and on the method of voting to be used in the future. These decisions will require substantial changes to both the IFCC Statutes and the IFCC Rules. These revisions will take place during 2012. Therefore, whilst the content of this Chapter is correct at the time of printing it will change during the next three years. The most up-to-date version of the IFCC Statutes and Rules will be available on the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org) or from the IFCC Office (ifcc@ifcc.org)

14.1. STATUTES OF THE IFCC

Preamble

Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine involves the study and application of chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology to the practice of diagnosis in Medicine. The scope of the subject matter of this discipline is recognised by several names in various parts of the world (e.g. clinical biochemistry, physiological chemistry, chemical pathology). Included in its scope are the chemical facets of all areas of laboratory medicine. The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) was formed to advance the science and practice of laboratory medicine throughout the world in the interest of the peoples of the world. These articles of association were approved by the IFCC Council on June 18, 1972 and amended by the IFCC Council on July 13, 1975. They were further reviewed and amended by Council on April 29, 1984, November 14, 1993, October 20, 2002, July 24, 2005 and May 15, 2011.

Articles of Association

1. Name and legal domicile

In accordance with the articles set forth hereunder and with articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, an Association is hereby formed under the name of International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Federation). The legal permanent domicile of the Federation is Pfäffikon (Canton Schwyz), Switzerland.

1.1. The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine exists to address the Purposes stated in 2 below. It operates without the intent of making a profit and all revenue that it earns is ultimately used for its stated Purposes.

2. Purposes

The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine exists to advance the theory and practice of clinical laboratory science and to further its application in the provision of health services and the practice of medicine. Specific purposes of the Federation include, but are not limited to:

2.1. Establish, encourage and foster high professional standards of clinical laboratory science.

2.2. Promote international cooperation and coordination in the development of clinical laboratory science in matters of research, procedures, materials,
regulations and practices, education and training, codes of ethics and related subjects.

2.3. Provide a basis for closer liaison and the free exchange of professional information among clinical laboratory scientists worldwide.

2.4. Sponsor and support International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, sponsor and support regional congresses and meetings of international scope and interest.

2.5. Encourage, sponsor and/or conduct studies, prepare recommendations, reference measurement procedures and reference materials, reviews and reports on facets of clinical laboratory science of international interest and concern.

2.6. Provide consultation and advice on facets of clinical laboratory science to all Members of the IFCC, other international and regional societies, states, nations, industries and others concerned with the provision of health services and materials.

2.7. Encourage and assist in the organisation and establishment of new societies concerned with clinical laboratory science.

2.8. Contribute in other ways wherever practical and feasible to the improvement of clinical laboratory science and its services to humanity.

3. Organisation

The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine is organised with: (1) a Council (Article 5 hereafter) (2) an Executive Board (Article 6 hereafter) and holds General Meetings as provided for under Article 9 hereafter.

4. Membership

4.1. Types of Membership

There are three types of membership - Full Member, Affiliate Member and Corporate Member.

4.1.1. Full Members are drawn from either one established and recognised national society of clinical chemistry or, clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, or one such organisation in a given geographical area.

4.1.2. Affiliate Members may be admitted from additional organisations or sections of non-member national or regional organisations.

4.1.3. Corporate Members may be admitted from organisations manufacturing products or offering services for the field of clinical laboratory science.

4.2. Application Procedures

4.2.1. Application for Full Membership (4.1.1) shall be presented to the Secretary of the Executive Board. Applications shall be subject to approval by the Council on the recommendation of the Executive Board. Such application shall state that the applicant:

4.2.1.1. is an organised society for clinical chemistry, or clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine or other appropriate official organisation that represents the major clinical chemistry, or clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine interests of the country or area.

4.2.1.2. is recognised by a National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences or National Committee, Ministry of Health, or other appropriate official scientific organisation.

4.2.1.3. has officers authorized to act for the society.

4.2.1.4. is composed of persons employed in clinical laboratory science on a professional level.

4.2.1.5. holds regular meetings that include scientific programmes.

4.2.1.6. has as its main objectives the improvement of clinical laboratory services in health care and medicine, the advancement of knowledge and the encouragement of research.

4.2.2. Applications for Affiliate Membership of the IFCC (4.1.2) shall be presented to the Secretary of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall approve Affiliate Membership following appropriate consultation. Such an application shall state that the applicant:

4.2.2.1. is involved in the field of clinical laboratory science and includes persons employed in clinical laboratory science at a professional level.

4.2.2.2. is recognised by a National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences or National Committee, Ministry of Health, or other appropriate official organisation.

4.2.2.3. has officers authorized to act for the Group.

4.2.2.4. holds regular meetings that include scientific programmes.

4.2.3. Application for Corporate Membership (4.1.3.) shall be presented to the Corporate Representative of the Executive Board. Applications for Corporate Membership then require approval by the Executive Board. Applications shall contain details to show that the applicant:

4.2.3.1. is engaged in the manufacture of products and/or the provision of services for use in the field of clinical laboratory science.

4.2.3.2. has a commitment to the improvement of clinical laboratory science in health care and medicine, the advancement of knowledge and the encouragement of research.

4.3. Membership in each of the above groups becomes operative from the moment of approval.

4.4. The Council shall decide upon exclusion of Full Member organisations (4.1.1) that no longer conform to the requirements of articles 4.2.1.1. to 4.2.1.6.

4.5. The Executive Board shall decide upon exclusion of Affiliate Members (4.1.2) and Corporate Members (4.1.3) that no longer conform to the requirements of the relevant sections of articles 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.

5. Council

5.1. The supreme body of the Federation shall be a Council which is responsible for the establishment of policy and the overall direction of the Federation. Council may exercise its authority at a meeting or when written submissions are presented to it according to the protocol established below (5.9 to 5.14).
5.2. Full Members constitute the voting members of Council.
5.3. Each Full Member from within its membership will designate by writing to the Secretary a Representative to the Council of the Federation, with full powers to act for the Society in all matters coming before the Council.
5.4. The representatives from Full Members shall be the voting members of Council. An alternate representative may be appointed by a Full Member from within its membership or from the membership of another Full Member. The Secretary must be advised of this appointment in writing by an officer of the Full Member prior to the commencement of the meeting of Council.
5.5. Each Affiliate Member and Corporate Member may designate a non-voting representative to Council.
5.6. The Council shall approve the representative of the Corporate Members on the Executive Board as selected by the Corporate Members.
5.7. The members of the Executive Board of the Federation shall be non-voting members of the Council.
5.8. The Council is presided over by the President or, in his absence, by the Vice-President.
5.9. The Council, at the call of the Executive Board, shall meet in the same period and at the same place as an International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.
5.10. Extraordinary meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Board or by one fifth of the voting members writing to the Secretary.
5.11. At a duly called meeting a quorum of the Council shall consist of a simple majority of all Full Members. The procedures to be followed should a formal vote be required are set out in the Rules. In the absence of a quorum at a duly called meeting, business is subject to a mail ballot conducted as set out in the Rules.
5.12. In the periods between Council meetings the Executive Board may submit questions by mail ballot to the Full Members’ representatives to Council.

6. Executive Board

6.1. The Executive Board is charged with the day-to-day management of the Federation.
6.2. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Members, the immediate Past President and a representative of the Corporate Members. Other individuals may be co-opted as non-voting members at the Executive Board’s discretion.
6.3. The term of office of the elected members of the Executive Board shall be three years and shall start on the first of January following an International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Members of the Executive Board are eligible for re-election once only for a given office. No individual shall serve for more than six consecutive years excluding years served as Past President.
6.4. The Executive Board shall ensure the orderly discharge of the functions of the Federation and, in particular, carry out the administrative duties between meetings of Council. The Executive Board shall establish and maintain a set of Rules through which it will accomplish these functions.
6.5. A vacancy on the Executive Board may be filled by the Board. Such an appointment will be subject to ratification by the Council at its next regular meeting.

7. Affiliated Organisations

At its discretion the Executive Board may designate organisations engaged in the broad field of clinical laboratory science as IFCC Affiliated Organisations. The rights associated with such a designation shall be determined by the Executive Board.

8. The Rights of Members

The Rights of Full Members are determined by Council. The Rights of Affiliate Members and Corporate Members shall be determined by the Executive Board and subjected to approval by Council. These Rights shall be set out in the Rules.

9. General Meetings

9.1. A General Meeting of all interested individuals shall be held at the time and place of sponsored International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.
9.2. The General Meeting shall discuss actions, problems, and issues facing the Federation and shall give participants the opportunity to record their recommendations.

10. Dues

The annual dues for the various forms of membership (4.1) of the Federation shall be fixed by Council. Failure to pay dues by the prescribed date shall lead to a loss of Rights as is set out in the Rules. Council, on the advice of the Executive Board, has the discretion to recognize exceptional circumstances affecting a Member society and has the power to modify dues.

11. Dissolution of the Federation

If the Federation is dissolved, the net assets will be employed to realise the purposes set out in Article 2.

12. Amendments

Proposals of amendments to these articles of association may be presented in writing through the Executive Board to the Council. Such proposals must be proposed by one voting member of Council and seconded by another voting member. Amendments may also be presented by the Executive Board. Any such proposal must be received six months before a meeting of Council, otherwise it would be processed by mail as set out in the Rules. In either case acceptance of amendments shall require a two thirds majority of those voting. Should a mail ballot be required for an amendment to the Statutes, then the procedure to be followed for this ballot will be as set out under Rule 2.
14.2. RULES OF IFCC

Statute 5.8 states the following:

5.8. The Council Meeting is chaired by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President.

1. VOTING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED FOR COUNCIL (Refer to Statute 5.12)

1.1. The Past President, or in the absence of the Past President, the Chair of the Nominations Committee, will take the Chair during election of members of the Executive Board. He or she will propose the names of two persons, who are neither National Representatives nor are from the country of any of the candidates, nor candidates for office, as tellers.

1.2. A separate table should be available where tellers are able to receive and count the votes.

1.3. The voting members of Council are the formal representatives of Full Members (ref. Statutes 5.2 and 5.3). Only those Full Members in good standing are eligible to vote. The determination of those in good standing will be made by the Executive Board. (refer to Rule 6.2.1).

1.4. Each Full Member of good standing shall have one vote. No person shall cast votes on behalf of more than one Member.

1.4.1. All National Representatives of Member Societies in good standing or alternates must register prior to the beginning of Council Meeting to be eligible to vote. The IFCC Secretary will provide a list of members in good standing giving the name of the National Representative or the alternate. The voters will be presented with appropriate ballot papers at the time of registration.

1.4.2. For an alternate (proxy) to be eligible to vote for any nominee, the person has to be a member of any Member National Society. The Secretary of the IFCC Executive Board will be informed by the National Society in writing at least one month prior to the voting, the name of the proxy who will represent the National Society. In addition, the nominee must present a copy of this letter at the time of registration to be eligible to vote. No exceptions to the above will be accepted. Any proxy can register only one vote. A candidate for positions on the Executive Board cannot be a proxy for any society. A National Representative cannot be a candidate for positions of the Executive Board.

1.5. For a Council meeting a quorum must be present. A quorum of Council consists of a simple majority of the representatives of the Full Members in good standing or their formal alternates.

1.6. A simple majority of quorum rules; that is for a proposal to be passed, it has to receive a majority of votes of the representatives of the Full Members in good standing (refer to Rule 6) present at the Council Meeting.

1.7. Whenever a vote is required, the meeting shall decide whether this shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot. In this, as in all other procedural matters, the President's or the person presiding over the meeting decision is final. Voting for the Executive Board Members will always be by secret ballot.

1.8. If equal numbers of votes are cast For and Against a proposal, the President or the person presiding over the meeting of Council, will ask the Proposer and Seconder whether they wish to modify their proposal so that it is more acceptable. If they do not, there is a revote. If an equal number of votes are cast For and Against the same proposal on a second ballot, the proposal is lost.

1.9. All proposals and amendments require a Proposer and Seconder before they can be put to a vote. Any voting or non-voting member of Council can propose or second motions. During the debate other proposals or amendments may be made. The original Proposer and Seconder may agree to withdraw or modify their proposal to incorporate suggestions made during the debate, so that one final proposal is put to the vote. If however, they do not accept suggestions or amendments, but wish to press their original proposal, the following procedure must be observed. Amendments must be voted on first, and if passed, are then added to the original proposal, and this then voted upon. If the amendment is defeated, the original proposal is put to the vote. If the proposal is defeated, any amendment is automatically lost as well. A similar procedure is followed with proposed changes to amendments, which is the most recent one is voted on first. If a second proposal is made during the debate, which is judged not to be an amendment, this cannot be voted upon until a decision has been reached on the first proposal.

1.10. When Council must select one of several alternatives, e.g. in the election for positions on the Executive Board, the procedure will be:

1.11. Voting by Council for Executive Board membership shall be in the following order: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Members-at-Large.

1.12. Provision should be made to conduct the voting in an orderly manner such that all eligible votes can be counted. Representatives or their alternates are personally asked to deliver their votes for the National Societies. For each ballot being conducted, all National Representatives or alternates must be registered for their vote to be valid. National Representatives should represent the wish of the Board of their National Society and not their own personal viewpoint in the voting for candidates.

1.13. If there is one nominee only for an Executive Board position, voting will be by acclamation.

1.14. For election to positions for which there is only one vacancy (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), or for deciding on a single course of action when multiple possibilities are under consideration:

1.14.1. A candidate or an alternative who receives a majority of votes cast in a first ballot is elected. If none of the candidates or alternatives receives a majority of the votes cast, all candidates or alternatives except the two which received the highest number of votes are eliminated and a further ballot is held.

1.14.2. If three or more candidates tie for first place they are all entered into the second ballot, but the candidate or candidates with the second highest number of votes is/are not. If two or more candidates tie for second place they are all entered into the
second ballot together with the candidate who, gained the highest number of votes.

1.14.3. In a second (or subsequent) round of voting the candidate who, receives the highest number of votes will be elected or adopted, even if he/she has not received a majority of votes cast. If there is a tie for first place the candidates in first place will be entered into a further ballot or ballots until a result is obtained.

1.15. For election to positions for which there are multiple vacancies (i.e. Executive Board Members):

1.15.1. The procedures outlined in Rule 1.14 will be followed, except that the number of candidates carried forward to the second ballot will be up to twice the number of vacancies remaining to be filled. If the number of candidates remaining is less than twice the number of vacancies remaining, all candidates will be considered in the second round.

1.15.2. If any candidate gains a majority of votes cast in the first round of voting for EB Members, this candidate is elected and the number of vacancies to be contested in the second round is therefore reduced to two. In the event of ties (in the first round) for the last available position in the second ballot, all those who tied for this position will be carried forward to the second ballot.

1.15.3. In the second ballot, the three candidates (in the case of three remaining vacancies) or the two candidates (in the case of two remaining vacancies) who receive the highest number of votes will be elected, even if they do not receive a majority of the votes cast.

1.15.4. If two or more candidates gain an equal number of votes in the second round, and if this means that the candidates to be elected under section 1.15.3 cannot be determined, then the tied candidates will be entered into further rounds of voting until a result is obtained.

1.16. Before any new ballot, the Past President, or the person presiding over the voting procedure of Council, may ask each candidate, or in their absence each Proposer and Seconder, to confirm that they wish to continue in the ballot.

1.17. A majority of votes means that the number of votes for a candidate is greater than the total number of votes cast for all other candidates; abstentions are not counted.

1.18. In the case of a casual vacancy during the normal Executive Board term, nominations will be solicited from the Membership and a mail ballot will be conducted.

2. PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING A MAIL BALLOT (Refer to Statutes 5.12 and 5.13)

2.1. In the event that a mail ballot is required, the documents to be considered by Full Members will be dispatched to them by the most secure mail or courier service available. In addition, the documents will be sent electronically. Votes may be returned to the IFCC Office by mail, email or fax.

2.2. Full Members are required to respond to the ballot. Ordinarily, the response must be received no later than three months from the time the ballot documents were mailed. However, in special circumstances the President can vary the time in which a response must be received. For a proposal to be accepted it must receive a simple majority of the votes received.

2.3. In the event of a tie, rule 1.8 will apply.

3. RIGHTS OF FULL MEMBERS

3.1. Membership

3.1.1. Each Full Member will designate in writing to the Secretary a representative to the Council of the Federation, with powers to act for the Society in all matters coming before the council (ref. Statute 5.2).

3.1.2. The representatives from Full Members shall be the Voting members of Council. An alternate representative to Council may be appointed by a Full Member from within its membership, with full powers to participate and vote on Council matters. The Secretary must be advised in writing of this appointment, at least one month before the meeting of Council (ref. Statute 5.3). Exceptions will only be made in highly unusual cases. These will have to be ratified by the Executive Board.

3.2. Documentation

3.2.1. Representatives of Full Members will receive copies of all documents and publications distributed by the IFCC. They are also available on the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org).

3.2.2. Representatives of Full Members are responsible for providing their Societies formal responses and comments on these documents to the Executive Board or the specifically designated Division or Committee.

3.2.3. Full Member representatives are the official conduit from the Member Societies for bringing relevant matters regarding the profession of clinical chemistry to the attention of the IFCC.

3.3. Meetings

3.3.1. Full Members are eligible to hold an international or regional congress of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

3.3.2. Full Members may seek support from the IFCC for international, regional, national or local meetings. The IFCC may grant either its auspices or sponsorship where appropriate (see Congress guidelines).

3.4. Representation in Divisions, Committees and Working Groups

3.4.1. Each Full Member is entitled to nominate members of Division Executive Committees, Committees and Working Groups. The appointments for the Division Executive Committee membership and the Committee’s Chairs lie with the IFCC Executive Board on the recommendation of the appropriate Division Chair. Members of Committees and Working Groups are appointed by the respective Division Executive Committee.

3.4.2. Each Full Member is entitled to appoint a corresponding member to every Committee and Working Group.
3.5. Other rights
3.5.1. Full Members are entitled to apply to host a IFCC Visiting Lecturer, through the Visiting Lecture Programme.
3.5.2. Full Members are entitled to describe themselves as such in their publications and other promotional material.
3.5.3. A group working on a specific topic for a Full Member or several such Members may be recognised formally as an IFCC Working Group.
3.5.4. Full Members may submit a project proposal.
3.5.5. Additional rights may be determined by the Executive Board subject to ratification by Council.

4. RIGHTS OF AFFILIATE MEMBERS

4.1. Membership
4.1.1. Each Affiliate Member will designate in writing to the Secretary a representative to the Council of the Federation, with powers to act for the relevant group in all matters coming before the Council (ref. Statute 5.4).
4.1.2. The representatives from Affiliate Members shall be non-voting members of Council. An alternate representative to Council may be appointed by an Affiliate Member with power to act for the relevant group if the representative is unable to attend Council. The Secretary must be advised in writing of this appointment at least one month prior to the Council.
4.1.3. The representatives can propose or second motions in Council and can participate in its discussions (ref. Rule 1.9).

4.2. Documentation
4.2.1. Representatives of Affiliate Members will receive copies of all documents and publications distributed by the IFCC.
4.2.2. The Affiliate Member is entitled to submit formal comments on IFCC documentation.
4.2.3. Representatives of Affiliate Members are the official conduit from the member groups and are responsible for bringing matters regarding the profession of clinical chemistry to the attention of the IFCC.
4.2.4. Appropriate numbers of copies of the journal of IFCC will be provided to relevant groups for individual members.

4.3. Other rights
4.3.1. Affiliate Members are entitled to describe themselves as such in their publications and other promotional material.
4.3.2. An Affiliate Member may submit a project proposal.
4.3.3. Additional rights may be determined by the Executive Board.

5. RIGHTS OF CORPORATE MEMBERS

5.1. Membership
5.1.1. Each Corporate Member will designate in writing to the Secretary a representative to the Council of the Federation, with power to act for the Corporate Body in all matters coming before the Council (ref. Statute 5.4).
5.1.2. The representatives from the Corporate Members shall be non-voting members of Council. An alternative representative to Council may be appointed by a Corporate Member with power to act for the Corporate Body when the representative is unable to attend Council. The Secretary must be advised in writing of this appointment at least one month prior to the Council.
5.1.3. The representative can propose or second motions in Council and can participate in its discussions (ref. Rule 1.9).

5.2. Documentation
5.2.1. Representatives of Corporate Members will receive copies of all documents and publications distributed by the IFCC.
5.2.2. The Corporate Member is entitled to submit formal comments on IFCC documentation.
5.2.3. Representatives of Corporate Members are the official conduit from the member Corporate Bodies and are responsible for bringing matters regarding the profession of clinical chemistry to the attention of the IFCC.

5.3. Meetings
5.3.1. Corporate Members may seek support from the IFCC for relevant meetings (see Congress guidelines).
5.3.2. Corporate Members are entitled to describe themselves as such in their publications and other promotional material.
5.3.3. Corporate Members may participate in the selection process for the Corporate Representative on the Executive Board and the Division Executive Committees.
5.3.4. Corporate Members are entitled to use the IFCC logo on exhibits or when making presentations at meetings.
5.3.5. Each Corporate Member may submit a project proposal.
5.3.6. Additional rights may be determined by the Executive Board.

6. RULES GOVERNING THE PAYMENT OF DUES (refer to Statute 10)

6.1. Dues
6.1.1. The financial year of the Federation is January 1st to December 31st.
6.1.2. The Swiss Franc is the currency of the IFCC.
6.1.3. The dues payable for each category of membership are determined by Council which may delegate this responsibility to the Executive Board for recommending the level at which the dues should be set.
6.2 Non-payment of dues

6.2.1. If dues are not paid by a Full Member for one year without a satisfactory explanation being offered in writing to the Treasurer, voting rights are withdrawn automatically. The Treasurer will inform Members who are likely to lose their voting rights six months prior to the Council Meeting. To avoid this, their dues must be paid no later than two months prior to the Council meeting.

6.2.2. If dues are not paid for two years, the rights of a member of any class are suspended automatically. Suspended members will no longer be sent IFCC correspondence or other information. The Treasurer will inform Members who are likely to lose their voting rights six months prior to the Council Meeting. To avoid this, the dues for two years must be paid no later than two months prior to the Council meeting.

6.2.3. In the case where a Member organisation is unable to pay the full dues for reasons beyond its control, a temporary revised fee structure may be determined by the Executive Board. Such an action requires that the organisation provides the President or Treasurer with a written statement of the circumstances and the action is subject to ratification by Council.

6.2.4. Rights of membership are restored on receipt of payment of dues at a level deemed appropriate and acceptable by the Executive Board.

6.2.5. Where membership in any class has lapsed because of non-payment of dues, readmission may be sought by submitting a new formal application for membership.

6.2.6. After three years of non-payment, it would be proposed to Council that the National Society no longer be a member.

7. NOMINATION PROCESS

The Executive Board is elected by Council and the procedures described below are to ensure a fair and democratic process for this election.

7.1. The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominations Committee at least 2 years prior to the beginning of a new triennium. The Nominations Committee shall consist of no fewer than five individuals knowledgeable about the field of clinical laboratory science and the workings of the IFCC. The membership also should reflect the broad geographic diversity of the IFCC and shall include both the Chairman of the immediate previous Nominations Committee and the immediate Past President of the IFCC.

7.2. The Nominations Committee shall solicit suggestions for candidates for each position on the Executive Board (except the Corporate Representative), from Full Members of the IFCC. The Nominations Committee shall establish an appropriate deadline by which all nominations must be received.

7.2.1. Each nominee for office shall give written consent and provide consent of their National Society to indicate acceptance of office if they were to be elected. The nominees National Society is defined as the IFCC member for the country in which the nominee spends the majority of their time working in Laboratory Medicine. Only members of Full Members in good standing at the time of solicitation are eligible for consideration.

7.2.2. The candidates will be presented to Council at least 3 months before its scheduled meeting.

7.3. The Nominations Committee shall solicit from all Corporate Members suggestions for candidates for the corporate representative on the Executive Board.

7.3.1. Each Corporate Member may propose two nominees, one of whom must not be employed by that company or its subsidiaries or affiliated companies. Any nominee must be an employee of a Corporate Member in good standing. The nominees must provide written verification that they consent to serve, if elected, and a letter from their employer indicating the employer's consent. No less than six months before the scheduled meeting of Council, the Nominations Committee shall submit a ballot containing the names of all nominees to the Corporate Members, together with a short position statement from each of the candidates. From ballots returned no later than three months before the next Council meeting the Nominations Committee shall declare the recipient of most votes the elected Corporate Representative to the Executive Board. In the event of a tie the Corporate Members will be polled again. If a tie continues the Chairman of the Nominations Committee shall decide the representative by means of a coin-toss in the presence of witnesses and inform Council of the selection.

8. REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL LABORATORY MEDICINE ORGANISATIONS

8.1. The IFCC recognises a number of Regional Organisations with whom they work professionally, scientifically and in educational matters.

8.2. Regional Organisations, at their request, may be recognised as a branch of IFCC.

8.3. Terms of collaboration may be formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive Boards of IFCC and the Regional Organisation.