The Global Role of IFCC in Laboratory Medicine

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IFCC History

• Founded July 24th 1952
  – International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
  – Prof Earl King (London)

• Renamed 1955 Brussels
  – International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC)

• Updated 1997
  – International Federation of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)
IFCC Members

- **88** National Society Full Members
- **9** Affiliate Members
- **5** Regional Federations
  - Europe
  - Asia & Pacific
  - Latin America
  - Arab
  - Africa
- **52** Corporate Members

Representing >35,000 senior laboratory professionals
IFCC Mission

- To be the leading organization in the field of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine worldwide
  - Enhance the scientific level and quality of diagnosis & therapy for all patients;
  - Build on member professionalism to provide quality services to patients;
  - Communicate with members, healthcare providers & public on leading, innovative scientific & educational achievements;
  - Focus on scientific standards, publications, education & communications;
  - Organise congresses & conferences to bring the efforts of IFCC to the global community.

IFCC Structure and Organization

IFCC Council

IFCC Executive Board

Awards Committee

Nominations Committee

Special Projects

Finance Committee

IFCC Office - Milan

Congress Committee

Scientific Division

Education & Management Division

Communication & Publications Division

Committees & Working Groups

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IFCC Executive Board: 2012 -14

Graham Beastall
President

Howard Morris
Vice President

Jocelyn Hicks
Past President

Sergio Bernardini
Secretary

Bernard Gouget
Treasurer

Thomas Brinkmann
Corporate Rep.

Larry Kricka
Member

Vanessa Steenkamp
Member

Ulisses Tuma
Member

IFCC Office Team: Milan

IFCC Office Staff
(from left to right):

Silvia Colli-Lanzi,
Paola Bramati,
Silvia Cattaneo
IFCC Strategic Priorities

- Strategic plan for 2012-2014 has 26 action points
- Major themes:
  - Greater accountability to members
  - Broadening the membership
  - Improved internal and external communication
  - Promotion of impact of laboratory medicine on clinical outcomes
  - Enhanced international clinical collaboration
  - Education and management support to developing countries
  - Point of care testing
  - Horizon scanning on the future of laboratory medicine

IFCC Scientific Division (SD)

- **Mission:** To advance the science of clinical chemistry and apply it to the practice of clinical laboratory medicine
- **Current Chair:** Prof. Ian Young (UK)
- **Strategy:**
  - Assist transfer of research into practice
  - Provide solutions to scientific and technological problems
  - Develop diagnostic strategies
  - Establish standards for good laboratory practice
  - Respond to scientific needs of Members
  - Ensure quality in IFCC scientific documents
  - Participate in congresses and scientific meetings
  - Organise Master discussions
SD Committees

- Nomenclature, properties and units
- Molecular diagnostics
- Reference systems of enzymes
- Traceability in laboratory medicine
- Reference intervals and decision limits
- Thyroid function tests

SD Working Groups

- Standardisation of:
  - Haemoglobin A2
  - Carbohydrate-deficient transferrin
  - Albumin in urine
  - Pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A
  - Insulin assays
  - Troponin I
  - Parathyroid hormone
  - Bone marker assays
  - CSF proteins
- Allowable errors for traceable results
- Harmonisation of autoantibody tests
- Quality specifications for glucose POCT
- Clinical quantitative mass spectrometry proteomics
IFCC Education & Management Division (EMD)

- **Mission:** To facilitate the development of managerial skills and support educational activities in laboratory medicine.
- **Current Chair:** Prof Maurizio Ferrari (IT)
- **Strategy:**
  - Provide educational materials for publication
  - Promote analytical quality and laboratory management
  - Clinical molecular biology courses
  - Promote evidence-based laboratory medicine
  - Education and curricula development
  - Distance learning programs
  - Flow cytometry course
  - Support for developing countries

**EMD Committees**

- Analytical quality
- Clinical molecular biology curriculum
- Evidence based laboratory medicine
- Clinical laboratory management
- Distance learning
EMD Working Groups and Special Projects

- Laboratory errors and patient safety
- Visiting lecturer programme
- Courses on flow cytometry
- Developing quality competence in medical laboratories

IFCC Communication & Publications Division (CPD)

- **Mission**: Publication of all activities of the IFCC
- **Current Chair**: Dr. Ellis Jacobs (USA)
- **Strategy**:
  - Publishes of eJIFCC (web-based)
  - IFCC recommendations, documents & monographs
  - Coordinates SD & EMD peer reviewed publications
  - Publishes SD & EMD project outcomes
  - Manages IFCC website - [www.ifcc.org](http://www.ifcc.org)
  - Enhances IFCC public relations
  - Collaboration with the “Labs are Vital” Campaign
CPD Committees and Working Groups

- **Committees**
  - Public relations
  - Internet and distance learning

- **Working Groups**
  - Electronic IFCC Journal
  - IFCC eNews
  - Ibero-American nomenclature and translations

IFCC Task Forces & Integrated Projects

- Ethics
- Paediatric laboratory medicine
- Pharmacogenetics
- Chronic kidney disease
- Haemoglobin A1c
- Young scientists
- Cardiac markers
- Point of care testing
- Impact of laboratory medicine on clinical outcomes
IFCC Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

- **Chair:** Prof Tomris Ozben (TR)
- **IFCC ‘WorldLab’ Series**
  - 2011 - Berlin; 2014 – Istanbul; 2017 – Durban
- **IFCC ‘EuroMedLab’ Series**
- **Regional Congresses**
  - AFCB: 2010 – Beirut ; 2012 – Marrakech; 2014 – Khartoum
  - Asia Pacific: 2010 – Seoul; 2013 – Bali
  - Africa: 2011 – Kenya; 2013 – South Africa
- **Specialized Conferences**

Some Key IFCC Programs

- Visiting Lectureship Program
- Professional Scientific Exchange Program
- IFCC Speaker's Bureau
- Roche/IFCC Travel Scholarships
- IFCC Awards
Visiting Lectureship Program

- Supports international exchange of lecturers
- Creates global educational networks
- Brings together IFCC activities in different regions
- Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics
- IFCC covers cost of travel
  - Host covers cost of registration and accommodation

Professional Exchange Programs

- Facilitate the international exchange of scientists of IFCC member societies
- Increase high level education of young scientists through scientific or quality management activities
- Transfer of new technologies and/or skills between IFCC member societies
- IFCC covers cost of travel plus a contribution towards living costs – maximum of 3 months
Speaker’s Bureau

- Listing of IFCC members accessible for presentations, seminars or media comments
- Professional expertise
- Specific topics of interest
- Approved by IFCC EB as spokespersons

Summary

- IFCC is a global professional federation for the clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine community
  - Major organization linking clinical chemistry societies and federations worldwide
  - Major body involved in development of standards in laboratory diagnostics
  - Major venue for international exchange of scientific know-how in the field
  - Major facilitator of education and communications in the field

For further information visit:
www.ifcc.org