

Summary

123rd Meeting Executive Board
Istanbul, TR, June 20-21, 2014

Minutes

Members:	Dr. G Beastall (GB)	President
	Prof. J Hicks (JH)	Past President
	Prof. H Morris (HM)	Vice President
	Dr. B Gouget (BG)	Treasurer
	Prof. S Bernardini (SB)	Secretary
	Prof. L Kricka (LK)	Member
	Prof. V Steenkamp (VS)	Member
	Dr. U Tuma (UT)	Member
	Dr. T Brinkmann (TB)	Corporate Representative
In attendance:	Ms P Bramati (PB)	IFCC Office

2. Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

EB noted the positive results of the ballots for IFCC Membership on behalf of Macedonian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Saudi Association for Clinical Chemistry and the enquiries about IFCC Membership from societies in Mongolia and Somalia.

3. Corporate Members

3.2 EB noted the approval of the new Corporate Member Sonic Healthcare (3.1.94)

3.40 Other matters relating to Corporate Members

EB discussed further the suggestion that there should be two Corporate Member Representatives, representing different constituencies. The nature of Corporate Membership of IFCC is changing with the introduction of CM who are not diagnostics companies. At present there is growth on private laboratories as CM. Looking to the future it is possible that we may see increasing numbers of CM coming from informatics or pharmaceutical companies. It has been difficult for one person to act as a single CM Representative for diagnostic companies. As the range of CM broadens it will be even more challenging for one CM Representative to address all interests. Therefore, the proposal has been made that there should be two CM representatives: one to represent the diagnostic industry CM and one to represent the other CM (currently private laboratories). EB started a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the proposal but a more detailed discussion has to be made in particular considering the possibility that the already poor engagement by CM will be diluted, the difficulty in recruiting candidates, and the possibility of tension between different CM constituencies.

4. Affiliate Members

EB noted the closure of the correspondence with the Full Member Israel society (2.1.22) about the logo of the Palestine Affiliate Member society (4.1.8).

5. Regional Organisations

5.01 Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)

EB noted that the 14th and 15th APFCB Congresses will be held in Taiwan (2016) and in India (2019) and the publication of APFCB News for 2013 http://apfcb.org/apfcb_news_2013.pdf.

5.02 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

EB noted progress with possible joint IFCC-COLABIOCLI projects and in particular with the "Traceability in Clinical Laboratory". The project "Salud Sexual Y Reproductiva-Disfuncion Vaginal" should be conducted in Spanish.

EB noted that the 22nd COLABIOCLI congress will be held in September 2015 in Quito, Ecuador and that EB will hold a meeting before the congress. HM met with Carlos Navarro in Ecuador in May 2014, he reports a great attitude to collaborate with IFCC. UT described a 3 month distance learning course on Lab. Quality/Management, he will send the link to IFCC for onward transmission to C-DL to support the initiative.

5.04 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

EB received the EFLM Strategic Plan 2014-15 which is really impressive. In particular the item n. 1 is related to developing relationships and collaboration with IFCC through renewal of the MoU, liaison with IFCC and promotion of functional units of mutual interest. EFLM is also engaged in promoting joint projects with other IFCC Regional organizations (item n. 16).

EB noted the closure of the issue relating to the involvement of EFLM in the IFCC election process, and the agreed guidelines for employing IFCC and EFLM staff included in the agreement signed by IFCC, EFLM and MZ in May 2014. Nevertheless there is not yet substantial progress for the MoU between IFCC and EFLM.

EB noted that the EFLM General Assembly will be held in association with the EuroLabFocus congress in Liverpool, UK in October 2014.

5.05 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

All National Societies (n.10) organized their annual meeting during 2014, some of them are very active. Many workshop and symposia have been organized during 2014 (11 by the Tunisian Society, 7 by the Syndicat des Biologistes du Liban, 2 by the Algerian Society, etc...). "Les 14^e Journées Marocaines de Biologie Clinique" in Jun 2014 have had great success with 700 attendants and a good scientific programme.

5.6. African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

The Molecular Pathology Workshop in Zimbabwe had a great success, many young scientist participated and also the YS-TF Chair Pradeep Kumar Dabla and Maurizio Ferrari. Other AFCC members should join to IFCC. A great debate is moving forward on "Shaping the future of laboratory Medicine".

The 4th Conference of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry, AFCCLabMed Victoria 2015, will be held 28-30 April 2015 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and will be hosted by the Association of Clinical Biochemistry Zimbabwe (ACBZ). The theme for the conference is "Integrating Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Evidence Based P4 Medicine". The new executive board will have their first meeting in Istanbul. AFCC sponsored three young scientists to attend IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul. The AFCC is to host a regional symposium in Istanbul. Renewed efforts are being made to obtain new members which will eventually also become members of IFCC. A stand will be shared at Istanbul between AFCC and WorldLab 2017 to promote both conferences.

5.1 American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC)

EB discussed the opportunity for AACC to start discussions with the CSCC about the organization of a North American Region of IFCC. This would be extremely important if the motion on a Regional representative on the IFCC EB will be approved.

6. International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

EB noted that both Dr Gaby Vercauteren and Dr Willy Urassa are changing roles within WHO and a new liaison for IFCC will be notified in due course.

6.2 Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)

EB confirms signing of the updated IFCC-CLSI agreement and noted that CLSI will have a complimentary booth at IFCC WorldLab Istanbul 2014 and that will present the IFCC Robert Schaffer Award.

6.4 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

EB noted that IUPAC has changed its Board level representative on the NPU Steering Committee (see item 8.2.6)

6.13 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)

EB appreciates the active collaboration between TF-CKD, APFCB and WASPaLM regarding the management of chronic kidney disease in the Asian Pacific region.

HM reported on the correspondence with the President of WASPaLM regarding future collaboration. HM and GB will meet with WASPaLM representatives in Istanbul to further this collaboration.

6.22.1 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

EB discussed the progress with the project to reform JCTLM. In December 2013 the JCTLM Members and Stakeholders discussed possible future directions for JCTLM. A survey was designed and sent to JCTLM Executive member bodies (BIPM, IFCC, ILAC) for comment with feedback received by 31 March 2014. A document, aimed to collate and analyse the responses to the survey

and to suggest a way forward has been made to stimulate further discussion within the WG. In particular the following items seems to be more relevant:

About the mission: JCTLM activity should extend to all fields of laboratory medicine and should include both standardisation and harmonisation, the impact of the work of the JCTLM should be assessed by the WG using performance indicators for the JCTLM activities;

About the Structure and Operation: JCTLM is willing to admit other international organisations (preferably global) into Executive Committee Member Organisations in order to fulfil its mission for a broader range of analytes/measurands, JCTLM should not become a legally constituted body and Governance should be through the Executive Committee and all Executive Committee Member Organisations will be legally constituted, JCTLM should have greater independence and visibility rather than being perceived as part of BIPM/IFCC;

About Finances: the survey results reveal that: JCTLM would benefit by moving to a contribution system rather than a system based on meeting costs as they arise, all Executive Committee Member Organisations should pay an annual fee;

About Membership: the survey has revealed a disagreement on the nature and role of ordinary members, with particular reference to diagnostic companies There is one reformist view that considers it essential to open up ordinary membership to interested parties and not only restricted to those with competence/expertise in JCTLM activities. EB agreed to invite Companies to join to JCTLM scientifically and financially as part of the reform of JCTLM.

7. Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2 IFCC WorldLab Congresses

7.2.22 IFCC WorldLab Istanbul 2014 (22-26 June 2014 www.istanbul2014.org)

EB evaluated the numerous WorldLab activities that affect EB members.

The number of registrations was of about 3500, with a good success for the Organization Committee. The venue is excellent as well as the scientific programme.

7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017

EB received a progress report from VS on plans for WorldLab that will be held in Durban 22-25 October 2017. The organization of the Congress is going well. A pamphlet will be distributed at the WorldLab – Istanbul as first announcement. The Congress venue will be the Durban International Convention Center. The COC Chair is Prof. R. Erasmus and the SPC Chair Prof. TS Pillary.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020

EB noted that this congress will take place in Seoul, S Korea and that the organisers will be meeting in Istanbul with MZ Congressi.

7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

7.3.1.14 APFCB Taipei 2016

EB noted that this congress will take place from 5-8 November 2016 in Taipei.

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab Paris 2015

The organization of the Congress is almost complete. The preliminary programme will be distributed at the WorldLab – Istanbul. There will be 5 IFCC symposium: "Improving patient outcomes through assay standardization, "The IFCC e-Academy", "Value and impact of laboratory medicine in patient care: what is the evidence?", "IFCC-TF Pharmacogenomics" and probably an interesting session organized by the IFCC TF-YS. The organization of the Exposition has been finalized.

7.3.2.22 EuroMedLab 2017

EB noted that this congress will be held in Athens. The contract has been signed between IFCC, EFLM the Greek Society and MZ Congressi.

7.3.4.22 COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito, Ecuador

EB noted that this congress will be held from 24-26 September 2015 and that EB has agreed to hold a meeting there.

7.3.4.23 COLABIOCLI 2017 Punta del Este, Uruguay

EB noted that this congress will be held in October 2017

7.3.6.14 AFCB 2015 Sudan

EB noted that this congress will be held in Khartoum in November 2015

7.3.7.4 AFCC 2015 Zimbabwe

EB received a report from VS on plans for the next AFCC congress in Zimbabwe: "4th AFCC LabMed April 28-30 2015 - Integrating Evidence Based Laboratory (P4: Personalised, Preventative, Predictive, Participatory) Medicine. The venue will be Victoria Falls. Four Pre-Congress Courses have been organized: "Quality Laboratory Management, Genomics and Proteomics, Metabolics - Informatics Hands On", "Atomic Absorption Spectrometry in Endocrinology and TDM Drugs of Abuse and Toxicology", "Young Scientist Networking and Paediatric Pathology Including POCT", "Nanotechnology in Clinical Chemistry". The overall organization is going forward well.

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

7.4.1 Roche Bergmeyer Conference (3-5 March 2014, Eibsee, Germany)

EB noted that the Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on 'Women's Health' will be published shortly in Scand J Clin Lab Invest. Discussions have commenced on the topic for the next conference in March 2016.

7.4.6 Siemens - IFCC Conference, Toronto, October 24/25 2014 'Bio-markers in Neuropsychiatric Disorders'

The Organization of the Conference has been completed as well as the scientific programme. A flyer will be distributed at the WorldLab-Istanbul and at the AACC-Chicago. The event is present on the IFCC website. The administrative arrangements for the Conference between Siemens, IFCC and CSCC have been almost finalized.

7.4.9 IFCC General Conference

The next General Conference will be held in Spring 2016, probably in March. The proposed venue is Madrid, the Office is looking for information about logistics. EB agreed the outline programme proposed by BG discussed in the EB in Washington. BG will be the chair. The first announcement will be done as soon as possible and in the next EB in November in Rome the detailed organization will be finalized.

7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices

EB noted that the list of congresses awarded IFCC auspices is updated and published on the IFCC website.

Other Meetings

EB confirmed the arrangements for the meeting in Rome (prior to the EB meeting) November 14th 2014. The IFCC Specialized Conference "Biomarkers in Alzheimer Disease" will be held, with the support of Roche, at the University Hospital of Tor Vergata-"Aula Anfiteatro Giubileo 2000" (100 places). The scientific programme is complete and the arrangements for the organization are established.

8. Scientific Division (SD)

8.0 Minutes

EB noted that SD is meeting in Istanbul.

8.2 SD Committees

8.2.6 C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

The project between IFCC, IUPAC and the Danish Board of e-health in respect of the development of NPU terminology is going forward very slowly. The NPU Steering Committee meetings were held (by Skype) on 7 May and 18 June 2014.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.0 Minutes

EB received the draft minutes of the meeting of EMD, which was held in Milan in January 2014.

EMD is meeting in Istanbul.

9.2 Committees

9.2.5 C-Analytical Quality (C-AQ)

EB approved the appointment of Alexander Haliassos and Annette Thomas to C-AQ.

9.2.9 C-Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

EB noted that Prof Sedef Yenice (TR) has been appointed as the new Chair of C-CLM and that the committee will meet in Istanbul.

9.4 Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme

EB noted the list of approved VLP for 2014: Limassol-Cyprus (H.Morris), Guayaquil-Ecuador (H.Morris), Sibiu-Romania (M.Ferrari, J.Smith, M.Oellerich), Harare-Zimbabwe (P.Fortina, M.Ferrari), Ramallah-Palestine (K.Sikaris, D.Young), Santa Cruz della Sierra-Bolivia (R.Sierra Amor, M.Blanes, S.Raymondo), Pretoria-South Africa (J.Delanghe, C.Le Roux), St.Petersburg, Moskow-Russia (H.Stekel), Ortigas-Philippines (K.Adeli, E.Frank, K.Sikaris).

EB discussed the correspondence from David Armbruster (Abbott) regarding future funding of the VLP. Abbott is under increasing cost constraints and can provide 35,000 Euros for 2014, instead of the 40,000 Euros requested (note: 35,727 Euros utilized in 2012 for 16 applications), 34,577 Euros utilized in 2013 for 15 applications). Abbott wishes to discuss its role in VLP during 2015 and beyond with the IFCC leadership. The EB opinion is that Distance Learning can in part replace VLP and that the economic burden of VLP could be shared with other CMs. JH will contact Siemens about DL.

9.4.2 Flow Cytometry

EB noted that the IFCC/ESCCA Beckman Coulter Flow Cytometry Course was held successfully in Vienna from 24-26 April 2014.

9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

EB reviewed the slide presentation aimed at summarising and promoting DQCML and noted that DQCML will hold an open meeting in Istanbul. IFCC is able to sustain the accreditation of individual laboratory by giving the expertise on Internal Quality Control and External Quality Assurance, local and international Liaison, Accreditation preparation and Quality management System through the Visiting Lecturer Programme, Distance Learning (C-DL), Analytical Quality (C-AQ), Laboratory Management (C-CLM) and in Mentoring the Laboratory Director (IFCC Past-President).

9.4.40 Other Business

Quality Assessment Scheme in Zambia

EB noted continuing progress with the EQA programme in Zambia as reported by VS.

Collaboration with Clinical Laboratory Management association (CLMA).

EB noted that the first meeting of this joint group will occur during the AACC 2014 congress. Paolo Fortina and Maurizio Ferrari will participate to the meeting.

Educational Support Programme: Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics

EB received a report from HM on the educational support programme on laboratory quality being produced by OCD in the Asian Pacific region. The educational support in management and accreditation in this Region is an OCD marketing strategy. The OCD will fund the production of the programme but needs the IFCC help in reviewing the educational content. IFCC may link into this project also through distance learning programmes that could be delivered free of charge by IFCC. In this context, an electronic course on “Laboratory Management” with 200-300 slides is going to be reviewed by a group of IFCC experts.

Maurizio Ferrari has proposed a new WG on “Guidance on Cancer Genomics Clinical Laboratory”. EB approved this proposal.

10. Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.0 Minutes

EB received the draft minutes of the meeting of CPD, which was held in Switzerland in March 2014. EB noted that CPD is meeting in Istanbul.

10.2 Committees

10.2.2 C-Internet and Distance Learning (C-IeL)

EB noted interesting progress towards the creation of the IFCC e-Academy with InSoft.

10.3 Working Groups

10.3.1 Electronic journal of IFCC (e-JIFCC)

EB noted the publication of an excellent edition e-JIFCC dedicated to ‘Men’s Health’.

10.3.4 Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translation (WG-IANT)

EB noted that Maria del Carmen Pasquel Carrera (EC) has been appointed as the new Chair of WG-IANT.

WorldLab has been highlighted by the Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry and the ‘El Microscopio’ team will be in Istanbul. The Radio continues to obtain great success and the audience continues to grow. The visits per month in March 2014 reached more than 50.000, the followers in Facebook 100.000. EB will continue the efforts to obtain some commercial sponsorship for the radio and will identify the IFCC documents that have to be translated in Spanish and published by the Radio.

10.9.2 IFCC Booth

EB noted arrangements for the IFCC booth at the AACC congress in Chicago in July 2014.

10.40 Other business

‘Labs Are Vital’™

EB noted that the ‘Labs Are Vital’ website is now operational www.labsarevital.com, that E Welsh (IFBLS) has been appointed as Chair for the first year, that E Delvin is working as Clinical Editor and that E Jacobs will present ‘Labs Are Vital’ during a symposium at IFCC WorldLab.

Advertising in IFCC Publications

EB discussed the CPD suggestions for advertising. The CPD unanimously agreed that advertising should start with eNews. Moreover the IFCC Code of Practice clearly indicates that “Paid advertising in IFCC publications is acceptable as long as it is clearly identifiable as such”. EB agreed the CPD proposal.

Insoft-IFCC Periodicals

There is a draft agreement between Insoft Digital and IFCC that has to be finalized. The CPD will work further on the agreement.

11.0 IFCC Awards

11.01 IFCC Awards Committee

JH and HM described arrangements for the Awards presentations ceremony and the Awards dinner. A booklet describing the awarded scientists will be delivered at the dinner.

13.0 Special Projects and Task Forces

EB discussed about the increasing number of TFs. BG believed that too many TFs have been activated that are not under the supervision of Divisions. GB did not agree, in his opinion TFs are precious in their activity. Being difficult for the EB to manage the relationship with 10 TFS, JH suggested to create EB liaisons with TFs. EB agreed and this item will be considered in the next EB.

13.01.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-Ethics)

Recent Projects: promotion of a policy on publication ethics, preparation of a conflict of interest policy for IFCC, preparation of a policy for the relationship between IFCC and its Corporate Members, survey of training in ethics for Laboratory Medicine professionals.

Possible New Projects: collate guidelines relating to laboratory aspects of genetic testing, collate guidelines relating to the use of biobanks, harmonize policy for addressing misconduct in publishing scientific articles, develop guidelines on reporting abnormal results discovered by accident, create a directory of ethical interests amongst IFCC Members.

The Next Meeting will be held 24 June in Istanbul.

13.01.02 Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM)

EB noted the arrangements for the ICPLM that has been held held in Istanbul 19-22 June. The attendants were almost 120 divided in 3 sessions, with this level of participation probably would have been better in a single session. Getting a sponsorship has been difficult and EB has discussed the financial outcome of the ICPLM: the final balance between expenses and incomes (sponsors and registrations) has been -4277 Euros.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

EB confirmed the appointment of Pradeep Kumar Dabla (IN) as the Chair of TF-YS.

EB noted that the core team of TF-YS will meet in Istanbul to re-focus their activities.

The new Chair is very proactive and many interesting projects are in development with the collaboration of Damien Gruson, who has a consultant role. They are going to organize a symposium at the EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris.

13.01.07 Task Force on POCT (TF-POCT)

EB noted the arrangements for the satellite meeting being held in Istanbul 22-26 June.

EB expressed appreciation for the work that has been done.

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

This TF has not shown great progress. EB received a report from GB of discussions with M. Hallworth. The TF probably has too huge and challenging topics. It is important to understand where we go with this TF and establish more stringent objectives.

13.01.11 Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT)

Main Objectives of the Task Force: to establish a small group of clinical and scientific experts who represent both suppliers and users of 'uncommon but clinically important' laboratory medicine methods; to agree a definition of an 'uncommon but clinically important' measurand; to survey IFCC Members and IFCC functional units to receive suggestions for 'uncommon but clinically important' measurands; to establish the availability of proficiency testing schemes for identified measurands and where proficiency testing schemes exist to assess their potential for expansion at an international level; to recommend to the IFCC EB proficiency testing schemes that may be set up under the auspices of IFCC.

First Meeting: 25 June in Istanbul

13.01.13 Task Force on Geriatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-GLM)

EB is very interested in this TF. GB has contacted Steve Wong (AACC President), Patti Jones (NACB), Charles Pippenger (IATDMCT), Pierre Wallemacq and HM proposing an agreement for a joint project from AACC, NACB, IATDMCT and IFCC. In this context the involvement of an international clinical partner like the International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics is critical. The next step is to think about structure and terms of reference through a Steering Group that comprises one representative from each partner organization.

13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

EB received a report summarising recent PSEP and PMP. PSEP: Myriam Oliveira Rodriguez (Spain), Carlos Ku (Mexico), Alessandro De Stefano (Italy), Isaac Iwechue Uke (Nigeria). PMP: Mathews Chola Siulapwa (Zambia), Aaron Sichilima (Zambia), Idris Yahaya Mohammed (Nigeria), Oyetunji Olukayode Soriyan (Nigeria).

13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

EB noted the final list of scholarship recipients for IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul: Mohamed Khaled Masoud (Egypt); Mesfin Eyob Abera (Ethiopia); Cabrera Ayuso Ana Regina (Guatemala); Shilpa Hasija Bhardwaj (India); Medha Rajappa (India); Anna Meiliana (Indonesia); Francis Ndungu (Kenya); Jadda Hajar (Marocco); Raj Kumar Yadav (Nepal); Fabian Unyime Aniekpon (Nigeria); Wafa Omer (Pakistan); Analia Acosta (Paraguay); Geraldine B. Dayrit (Philippines); Malarnangai Selvadurai (Sri Lanka); Soloviov Sergii (Ukraine); Symchuk Artem (Ukraine); Tran Khanh Chi (Viet Nam); Kamvuma Kingsley (Zambia); Grace Mashavave (Zimbabwe). Sabe Mwape (Zambia) – is the recipient of the Jocelyn Hicks scholarship.

EB noted that the scholarship recipients will attend the IFCC booth at 12.00h on Tuesday 24 June. For the next year Roche should provide 20,000 CHF able to fund 10 scholarships plus the JH funded scholarship. EB agree to divide equally the scholarships between the 4 IFCC Regional Meetings: Paris, Quito, Khartoum, Zimbabwe. JH will write to all IFCC Past Presidents to ask funding for other scholarships.

14.0 IFCC Statutes and Rules

The changes to the IFCC Statutes following the Council meeting held in Berlin in 2011 were approved and will be submitted to Council session n. 3.

EB discussed the possible changes to the Statutes as a result of the Motions submitted to Council in Istanbul about the presence of a representative for each Regional Federation in future Executive Boards. The Motions will be discussed informally at the Council meeting in Istanbul, session 5. The formal electronic voting will be expressed at a later time.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.4 Annual Report for 2013

The publication of the Annual Report has been completed.