IFCC Committee of Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (c-EBLM)

Minutes of Meeting: Friday, March 18th 2016; 9.00-13.00

Meeting room Alcabon: Madrid Marriott Auditorium Hotel & Conference Center

Participants: Hernan Fares-Taie, Chris Florkowski (Chair), Nuria Gimenez, Karina Rodriguez-Capote, Julien Wils, Annie Zemlin.

1. Development of an EBLM module for the IFCC e-Academy.

The Curriculum that we have collectively prepared has been approved by the EMD, although it is recognised that there is scope to be updated on an ongoing basis (for example, we should add something on demand management). This will form the framework for developing presentations for the e-Academy.

The Present.Me software can be borrowed from the IFCC Office (apply to Silvia).

Two presentations recorded by Chris were reviewed, now forwarded to be uploaded:
   1. EBLM; what is it and why do we need it? [framework for other presentations]
   2. Sources of Bias in Diagnostic Accuracy Studies.

Present.Me is straightforward to use, although Annie indicated some problems with adequate broadband for recording. Chris highlighted problems with background noise and the need for adequate preparation, in particular to keep presentations within the 15-20 minutes desirable maximum length. Others intending to use soon.

Presentations ready to be recorded or allocated include:
Annie: Audits of laboratory tests. Diagnostic accuracy studies.
POCT; pitfalls and advantages. STARD criteria. Tools for appraisal.
Karina: Diagnostic performance. EBLM process and examples.
Nuria: Meta-analysis (PHI practical example; from published paper).
Hernan: Improving clinical decision making.
Chris: ROC curve analysis and its application.

Where gaps, we may invite guest experts with a special interest to contribute.
To avoid too much overlap, we agreed that we would share our files via Dropbox.
It is understood that each module will eventually be coupled with a set of specific learning objectives and a set of 5 questions that would form part of the assessment. Participants will eventually be able to provide evidence of successful completion.

Action point: to record presentations and submit to IFCC for uploading.

2. Preparation of EBLM questionnaire with a view to global distribution.

Karina/Nuria indicated that a questionnaire was designed (originally in Spanish) to assess the competences and needs in Evidence Based Medicine and which was validated in a pilot survey of physicians and nurses. This has subsequently been adapted to focus specifically on EBLM and translated into English.
This was reviewed and approved, with a few modifications suggested. A box should indicate country of origin. A4 professional category may need some modification to
It was discussed what should be the optimal strategy for how this may be distributed globally. It was suggested that we seek IFCC endorsement and assistance with distribution to global membership through member societies. An on-line survey is preferable. The data would eventually be collated by Karina/Nuria, with a view to presentation at the IFCC Congress in Durban and publication in the IFCC journal.

**Action points:**
- Questionnaire to undergo further refinement to accommodate above (Karina/Nuria).
- Approach IFCC via EMD Chair regarding eventual distribution (Chris).

3. Progress with Guidelines reviews.


At the meeting, Julien circulated a checklist for the AGREE instrument (2016) that was intended for group c-EBLM members to review the Guidelines. We should send evaluations to Julien who will collate the data and give feedback. Julien will identify other adrenal guidelines [maybe up to a total of 10] for us to work on similarly and with a view to writing a publication for the IFCC or other journal.

Karina also suggested that we review five existing guidelines on PSA testing. It was agreed that this was a good idea and may lead to another publication, although the adrenal guideline exercise should be completed first.

**Action points:**
- Submit AGREE reviews of adrenal insufficiency guidelines to Julien (All)
- To source other adrenal focused guidelines for critical appraisal (Julien)

4. Possible contributions to conferences and VLP requests.

Annie indicated that our idea of having a c-EBLM symposium at the IFCC Congress in Durban (October 2017) had been favourably received, although it was vital that we submit an immediate proposal to the Congress organisers, together with brief personal biographies.

The proposal is:
- **Overall title:** EBLM: a global perspective. Chair: Annie
- EBLM, what is it and why do we need it? Chris (overview and process)
- Why do guidelines vary and how do you recognise a good one? Julien
- Global perceptions of EBLM and what are the needs? Karina.
- Getting the EBLM message out to Africa and the World. Hernan.

Envisaged 90 minute session, thus 4 X 15-20 minute presentations + Qs.

**Action point:** immediate collation of biographies (max 250 words) to Chris/Annie.

It was also discussed that we may expect to field requests for support as Lecturers as part of the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP). It was considered that each
would have to be evaluated according to its individual requirements and subject to the availability of individual committee members. It may even be appropriate to invite people from outside the c-EBLM. It was noted that c-EBLM has generously supported this area on many occasions in recent years.

5. Review of C-EBLM website – need for overhaul and updating.

It was noted that although the content in some pages was current, in others it was obsolete and should be deleted. Also, many pages should be merged.

Specifically:

Page 1: OK
Page 2: OK

Page 3: Remove everything there and replace with current activities.

Page 4: Remove content and replace with more recent and current meetings. Also give publicity to upcoming Durban Congress in 2017.

Page 5: Remove content and update with more current activities. It was discussed that this would be the ideal forum for Hernan to profile his activities of getting the EBLM message out in Latin American countries. It may also be appropriate for c-EBLM members to profile recent publications with an EBLM focus.

Page 6: OK

Pages 7-10: should be merged and content substantially edited and updated. Many of the Spanish links (provided by Nuria) should be translated into English and the links provided on these pages. This area will need active input from us all.

Consider materials for inclusion – eg group photograph and short biographies. Silvia Colli-Lanzi is the IFCC contact for progressing the above.

Action points:
Contact Silvia Colli-Lanzi and advise of the above plan (Chris and to copy all). Make contributions to Silvia as indicated above (All) once contact established.

6. Options for building connections with social media.

Options were presented and discussed for connections with Twitter, Facebook and EBM blogs that could provide opportunities to connect us as a committee with other relevant groups. In particular, it would be good to explore options for connection with clinical groups. Julien presented an EBLM logo that could be utilised.

Action point: Work with Julien to identify and establish links (All).

Next face to face meeting: likely Durban, South Africa, October 2017.

Meeting concluded at 13.00 hours.