

126th Meeting Executive Board Paris, FR June 19-20, 2015

Minutes

EB Members

Maurizio Ferrari	(MF)	President
Graham Beastall	(GB)	Past President
Sergio Bernardini	(SB)	Secretary
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	Treasurer
Daniel Mazziotta	(DM)	Member
Rosa Sierra-Amor	(RSA)	Member
Vanessa Steenkamp	(VS)	Member
Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporate Representative (Roche)

Invited guests to the Federations' Session

Layachi Chabraoui	(LC)	President AFCB (Arab Federation of Clinical Biology)
David D. Koch	(DC)	Representative NAFCC (North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry - President AACC)
Janet Kreizman	(JK)	CEO AACC
Leslie Lai	(LL)	President APFCB (Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine)
Mauro Panteghini	(MP)	President EFLM (European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine)

In attendance:

Ms Paola Bramati (PB) IFCC Office

The 126th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board has been held in Paris (FR), at the Congress Center “Le Palais des Congrès”, meeting room 203.

Session 1: Friday 19th morning

1. Preliminaries

1.0 DM apologizes for the absence for health reasons.

MF welcomes all the attendants and points out the good work done by all the EB members and the progresses of the strategic plan; in particular MF expresses satisfaction for the MoU that will be signed with EFLM and the excellent relationship with the Regional Federations.

EB comments the great success of the 21th EuroMedLab: Congratulations to the Congress Organising Committee for bringing together over 4200 registrants and 9600 visitors from the Laboratory Medicine community, representing 106 countries around the world, the excellent scientific programme and the wide and efficient Exhibition.

1.1.125 Minutes of 125th EB Meeting, Milan (IT)

EB approves the Full Minutes and the Summary Minutes from the 125th Meeting in Milan.

Action List from 125th EB Meeting

Almost all the Actions from the Milan EB have been done.

2. Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

EB noted the confirmation of “Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS)” society as 90th Full Member. The Belarus application is ongoing.

- Annual Dues for Full Members

EB received an update on outstanding membership dues.

3. Corporate Members

3.40 Presentation from Corporate Member Representative (RH)

EB discussed about the future strategies and actions to improve the participation of the companies. RH suggested a SWOT analysis of IFCC. How to re-define and enhance the value of IFCC for corporate members to increase corporate membership and avoid membership termination to guarantee the important financial contribution of the IVD industry? How to better enable and monitor the efficacy and effectiveness of Cs, WGs and TFs and their value to the corporate members? How to better link IFCC to clinical societies (without "expanding")?

- Annual Dues for Corporate Members

EB received an update on outstanding membership dues for 2014.

MF and TO will participate at the CMs meeting in EuroMedLab in Paris to find solutions for the delay in payment by many CMs (26 CMs are in delay for fees 2015).

4 Affiliate Members

EB noted the confirmation of Turkish “Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)” as 10th Affiliate Membership.

5. Regional Organisations – Part 1

5.02 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

EB received the report sent by DM and presented RSA. The III Latin-American Forum of Faculties of Biochemistry or equivalent degree has been held in Caracas, Venezuela, April 23-24th, 2015. Following previous sessions of this forum (Argentina 2013; Colombia 2014) and based on documentation produced, the Universities of Latin-America and Caribe decides to create the “Latin-American and Caribbean Network of Universities providing careers of Biochemists or equivalent degree, working for the harmonization of the curricula and promoting the recognition of the degree of Biochemist or equivalent degree at the level of Latin-America and Caribbean region.

Carlos Navarro, COLABIOCLI President, attended the VII National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry and d VIII Congress of Chemical Sciences in Asunción, Paraguay, May 7-9th 2015.

Nicaragua: It was reported that the profession is in crisis, new Laboratories are installed without any kind of control; the COLABIOCLI EB decided contact Dr. Mitzy Castro from Honduras to participate in the organization of activities related to licensing of laboratories, professional certification, registry of laboratories, a workshop on accreditation and meetings with local health authorities from Nicaragua.

After 18th months of the Latin-American Congress in Lima, Peru, COLABIOCLI did not receive the corresponding funds due to regulations in involved countries regarding money transfer. COLABIOCLI has not legal capacity and for that reason it is not possible to send an invoice. COLABIOCLI activities are affected seriously for this problem.

Courses on the COLABIOCLI virtual Campus: "Topics in statistics and metrology in the clinical laboratory" (Dr. Raul Marigliano), "Diagnosis and monitoring infection by HCV" (Dr Guillermo Gambino and Dr. Alejandra Musto), "Gestational diabetes. Diagnosis and monitoring" (Dr. Gabriela Berg, Dr. Maria Victoria Ortiz, Dr. Esteban M. Repetto and Dr. Valeria Zago), "Biochemistry and physiopathology of the thyroid function" (Dr. Daniel Aquilano). In preparation, the 4th edition of the online course on Quality Management in the Clinical Laboratory, with the auspices of PAHO. This edition will be 8 months long.

5.06 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

EB received comments on behalf of AFCC Past President VS. In April the 4th AFCC Congress took place in Harare, the Congress was attended by 200 delegates; a report was sent to IFCC e-newsletter, VS and the VLP lecturer Dr Renze Bias, submitted a report to IFCC.

Malawi joined as member of AFCC and IFCC in 2015; bringing the country membership to 16. (Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

Future plans: update AFCC website, support YS to attend Paris EFCC Congress, organize workshops in collaboration with associations/groups involved with IFCC, renew MoU with ASLM, strengthen association with WHO-Africa.

Long term projects: increase Membership of countries belonging to AFCC and IFCC from African continent, work out a financial strategy to increase income to support projects and YS attendance of conferences, marketing of WorldLab 2017 meeting, continue with Quality Assessment Scheme in Zambia and expand to other countries (a cost analysis of the scheme as well as a needs analysis for the scheme will be carried out to aide in expansion of this program, Malawi and Tanzania are to be targeted QA scheme . EB agree to support this EQA Scheme.

VS ask for an implementation of differential registration fees between developing and developed countries, indeed the majority of African delegates (including the young scientists) need to pay from their own pockets to attend. EB is more favourable in increasing the number of scholarships than selectively reduce the registration fees.

MF will meet R. Erasmus and L. Chabraoui (AFCC and AFCB respectively) at the EuroMedLab in Paris to suggest do not share national societies members between the two Regional Federations.

6 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO) – liaison GB

EB noted the request of submission to WHO of the Triennial Report 2015-2017 by 4th July 2015 (GB and MF).

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

EB received an update on behalf of RSA on the IFCC TF-POCT satellite meeting to the WASPaLM 28th World Congress in Cancun, November 2015. The program has been finalised featuring both local and international speakers. The Cardiac Marker Task Force is providing 3 speakers so the meeting has a cardiovascular POCT theme. There are 4 gold sponsors (\$6,000 euro) and 2 silver sponsors (\$3,000 euro) signed up with one of the silver sponsors also covering cost of one of the international speakers. WASPaLM has also provided a speaker they are sponsoring.

The meeting will be advertised locally by both the Mexican Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and CONAQUIC. A combine registration fee to attend both meetings is under revision by Rosy Tirimacco Chair TF POC. As before, MZ Congressi is in charge of contacting the speakers, and providing all the information related to the IFCC POC Symposium.

- Project Proposal on behalf of HM: “Leveraging the Value of Laboratory Medicine”

Quality, costs and value-for-money are now key drivers of change in the delivery of healthcare. In order to successfully leverage the value of laboratory medicine it is essential that the impact on clinical decision making can be demonstrated, through robust evidence, and delivered, through a more integrated approach to practice, service organisation and financial management.

Objectives of the discussion: through experience of delivering laboratory medicine in three health systems (economies) gain an insight into how laboratory medicine is currently valued – and by whom, how it is financed within the overall financial systems of the health economy, and the process of innovation and change. Then determine whether there is a common approach to leveraging the value of laboratory medicine across the health economy.

The expected outputs from the discussion should be: identification of a common set of stakeholders relevant to laboratory medicine, identification of a common set of value metrics for laboratory medicine, outline a strategy that aligns laboratory medicine with a healthcare delivery system that focuses on value in relation to (i) the role of laboratory medicine professionals, (ii) reimbursement based on value, and (iii) innovation and quality management.

6.23 International Standards Organization (ISO) - liaison GB

EB received an update on the ISO/TC212/WG2 meeting held in Chicago in April, 2015 (GB)

Session 2: Friday 19th, afternoon

7 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

As of 1 January 2015, Prof. Tomris Ozben completed her term as Chair of the C-CC James Wesenberg moved from the position of Chair-Elect to Chair. All C-CC members wish to extend their thanks to Prof. Ozben for her leadership and commitment to the health and contributions of the C-CC.

Template letters for the purpose of standardization have been developed for use with the many applications for IFCC Auspices. As of the end of May 2015, a total of 22 congresses and conferences have applied for and been granted IFCC auspices.

Template letters for the purpose of standardization have been developed for use in regards to IFCC Executive Board symposia sponsorship for IFCC ICCCLM (WorldLab), EuroMedLab and Regional Federation Congresses. Currently the number of the sponsorships is set for the IFCC ICCCLM (WorldLab) and EuroMedLab Congresses. However the number of sponsorships (1 or 2) for Regional Federation Congresses is currently decided by the EB on a case by case basis. A full agenda has been planned for the annual C-CC meeting which will be held in Paris on 21 June 2015 with updates scheduled on upcoming Congresses throughout the world and as far out as the IFCC ICCCLM (WorldLab) in Seoul Korea 2020. The agenda will also review the current status of various C-CC Congress guidelines and other related documents with a view to determine a work plan for the next 1 to 2 years.

The C-CC Chair will also attend a meeting to be held in Paris that has been scheduled for the purpose of outlining the organization requirements for the next IFCC General Conference scheduled for March 2016 in Madrid, Spain.

7.2 IFCC WorldLab Congresses

7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017 (ZA)

Durban, October 22nd-25th, 2015: the Scientific Committee has been established (11 members), invitations are in the process of being sent to all federations and certain IFCC groups to organize symposia. A meeting of COC with MZ will take place at the EuroMedLab in Paris. Promotional material will be distributed in Paris EuroMedLab and will also be sent to AACC Congress in Atlanta

and at the COLABIOCLI Congress in Quito. A request has been made to IFCC former president to reduce fees for African delegates and developing countries by 50%.

EB will discuss this request at the next EB in September evaluating the possibility to support registration fees with other actions. RH reported that corporate members have expressed their concern about two congress exhibitions in one year. Many will either decide for one event or split their budget.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)

Seoul, May 24th-28th, 2020

The congress planning is ongoing. Promotional material will be distributed in Paris EuroMedLab.

7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

7.3.1.14 APFCB Taipei 2016

Taipei, November 26th-29th, 2016

The congress organising committee has signed a contract with Enjoy Professional Conference Organizer Corp. to assist it in organising the congress 2016. Venue: The Taipei International Convention Center. Congress website: <http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/>. The tentative programme, sponsorship prospectus, and information about conference venue have been posted on the website. Theme of the Congress: 'Laboratory Medicine in Cloud'.

7.3.1.15 APFCB India, 2019

Jaipur – Rajasthan, 17-20 November 2019 (tentative dates)

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab Paris 2015

Paris, June 21st-25th, 2015

EB reviewed the EuroMedLab activities that affect EB members.

The 21st IFCC EuroMedLab Congress in Paris will bring together over 4200 registrants and 9600 visitors from the Laboratory Medicine community, representing 106 countries around the world.

7.3.2.22 EuroMedLab 2017, Athens (GR)

Athens, June 11th-17th, 2017

EB expressed some concern about the financial situation of Greece and hopes that it will improve as soon as possible not interfering with the Congress organization.

7.3.4.22 COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito, (EC)

Quito, September 24th - 26th, 2015

EB received a paper-report on behalf of Dra. M Montserrat Blanes González: The XXII Latin American Congress Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Science, COLABIOCLI-2015 "Desde la mitad del mundo hacia la Bioquímica del nuevo Milenio ", will be held at the JW Marriot Hotel. The Scientific Program includes 3 pre-congress courses, 5 intra congress courses, 3 short courses intra congress and 22 symposia and conferences which will be held in 5 halls simultaneously, one of them with Spanish English translation - Spanish for all attendees.

The Expolab will include 70 foreign exhibitors from five continents and 30 national exhibitors.

Joint executive committee meeting COLABIOCLI with IFCC Executive Committee WG-IANT-CPD, CPD - IFCC and correspondents of online radio "El microscope" will also take place.

The EB will hold the meeting after the congress.

7.3.4.23 COLABIOCLI 2017 Punta del Este (UY)

During the Closing ceremony in Quito there will take place the official presentation COLABIOCLI Congress 2017 Punta del Este Uruguay, April 2017.

7.3.6.14 AFCEB 2015 Khartoum (SD)

Khartoum, December 4-6, 2015

EB received an update on behalf of MF, about IFCC symposia.

7.3.7.4 AFCC 2015 Harare (ZW)

Harare, April 28th - 30th, 2015

EB received an update by VS on the congress outcome: the Congress took place at the Rainbow Towers Harare International Conference Centre. ZACB organized a pre-congress POCT Hands on Practical Workshop with the support of the Australian Association of clinical Biochemistry and MM African technologies. A second workshop was held on Essentials of Laboratory Quality Management (Chairs Prof. R. Erasmus and T. Pillay). The main congress took place from 28th to 29th April with 5 plenary lectures, 7 symposia and 4 workshops. A session was organized by the IFCC TF-YS with 115 YS attending. A post-congress workshop was held on “Scientific writing” (Chair V. Steenkamp).

IFCC should be aware that one of the main focus areas in clinical chemistry on the African continent is Quality Management and that young scientists need acquiring knowledge on scientific writing (article, poster and protocol). EB agreed to support the efforts of the AFCC.

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

7.4.1 Roche Bergmeyer Conference (7-9 March 2016, Eibsee, Germany)

EB noted the title of the next Conference: “Biomarkers in the diagnosis and monitoring of cancer”.

7.40 Other Business

EB discussed the opportunity to support the Development Countries for participation at congresses. EB agreed to support scholarships on the basis of specific guidelines that will be made by MF rather than a discount to the registration fees of members.

In the autumn 2015 a CCA Special issue will be published on the IFCC-Siemens Specialized Conference “Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Disorders” that was held in Toronto, October 24-25, 2014.

7.8 Congress with IFCC Auspices

The update on project about participation of IFCC Officers to events granted IFCC Auspices is available at the Office.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

SD Report, Presentation (Ian Young)

- NBSCI linkages to SD (London) key partner of WHO in producing standards. IY has been appointed as advisory committee member. EB congratulates with IY.
- IFCC participation in TFs created after EFLM strategic conference. MF asked for a formal commitments to have one IFCC representatives in the EFLM TFs to avoid overlap with IFCC; MF will meet at the EuroMedLab in Paris Mauro Panteghini, EFLM president, to discuss this item.
- CLSI relationships: is it still strategic for IFCC to collaborate with CLSI in guidelines production? RH: CLSI is a reference for US and its guidelines are often based on the situation / the thinking in the US. However, CLSI guidelines are being used in many other parts of the world as well. To avoid multiple standards and guidelines the best for CMs would be to have IFCC-CLSI guidelines. GB: it should be important to produce more universal guidelines limiting the CLSI focus on US. The collaboration is important for IFCC in any case. MF: the collaboration with CLSI is very committing, the IFCC have to nominate officers really motivated and support their work.
- AACC harmonization initiative: SD is very supportive and this would be main source of SD standardization project in the future.
- WG-SHAb2: this WG should be closed at the end of this year, proposal by IY to create a joint WG with ICSH to achieve harmonization. EB agreed.

- WG-HAT: IRMM will shortly release SRMs for IgG anti MPO and IgG anti-beta2GP1. IRMM has assigned a value to beta 2 microglobulin to an existing material. Proposal to convert in Committee at the end of 2015. EB agreed.
- WG-cMSP: formal liaison with HUPO to help focus and prioritization of future activities. EB agreed.

8.2 SD Committees

- C-TLM vacant position: ten applicants, Humber Vesper appointed as member and John Antor (Nigeria) as additional member. EB agreed.

8.3 SD Working Groups

- WG-SHAb2: this WG should be closed at the end of this year, proposal to create a joint WG with ICSH to achieve harmonization. EB agreed.
- WG-HAT: IRMM will shortly release SRMs for IgG anti MPO and IgG anti-beta2GP1. IRMM has assigned a value to beta 2 microglobulin to an existing material. Proposal to convert in Committee at the end of 2015. EB agreed.
- WG-cMSP: formal liaison with HUPO to help focus and prioritization of future activities. EB agreed.
- WG-Communitability: output due in the next 12 months, could be a CLSI joint document or as an ISO standard via TC212. EB agreed on the CLSI joint document.

Emerging proposals: WG in serum total protein reference proceedings, growth hormone standardization, immunosuppressant drugs and D-Dimer (initiated discussion with ISTH). EB agreed.

8.13. Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory medicine (JCTLM)

No items to be discussed.

13.0 Task Forces: reports by the EB member liaison with TFs

13.01.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

EB received an update on behalf of MF: great work, a paper published (*"Variability of ethics education in laboratory medicine training programs: results of an international survey"*. CCA 442;115-118, 2015).

New members with a broader geographic representation have been added: Elizabeth Arcellana-Nuqui (Philippines), Trefor Higgins (Canada), K. Okhan Akin (Turkey), Christine Sekadde-Kigundu (Kenya), Nilda Fink –Corresponding member (Argentina), Pramod Prasad Raut –Corresponding member (Nepal).

The proposed policy on Conflict of Interest was adopted by the EB and the TF-E recommendation for IFCC publications join COPE; the eJIFCC has applied for membership; the White paper on publication ethics was translated into several languages and posted on the IFCC website.

Plans for 2015: produce a draft chapter on Ethics for the IFCC Handbook, create a symposium proposal on Ethics for the next Euromedlab meeting Greece 2017, create ethics teaching modules "Pearls" for *Clinical Chemistry* Trainee Council website, create Ethics "toolbox" for Member Societies.

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

EB received update on behalf of SB: the TF likes to include a new member from LA, to update the speaker's bureau and to participate more with PLM symposia, in Congress granted by IFCCC Auspices as well as Regional and World Congress. RSA will contact colleagues in LA about this request.

In relation to the coordination, promotion and development of existing IFCC SD research activities associated with reference intervals, the application for access to KIGGS data is underway. Vija Grey, Sharon Geaghan, and Martin Hersberger are coordinating the development of guidelines for the reporting of critical values, a survey monkey survey has been recently distributed. The TF is

planning the XIV International Congress of Pediatric Medicine (ICPLM) to be held prior the IFCC WorldLab 2017 in Durban.

13.01.03 Task Force on Pharmacogenomics (TF-PG)

EB received update from MF: lacking of publications, only congress presentations . We have to obtain some documents in 2015 to better interact with Clinical associations to discuss about guidelines.

Ongoing activities: 1) establishment of the European Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (EU-PIC), current network holds 106 participants in 37 European Institutes covering 18 European Countries; 2) Horizon2020 grant application for PGx implementation in Europe with IFCC as partner; 3) participation at the Nomenclature Committee ADME genes, preparing a document including laboratory reporting for Pharmacogenetics (publication in 2015); 4) participation at the European Medicine Agency (EMA) at the Pharmacogenetics WG; 5) participation at the AACC Personalized Medicine Division.

Plans for 2015: publication of guidelines and position papers on PGx nomenclature and PGx best laboratory practice, TPMT, CYP2C19 with cardiologists, CYP2D6 with oncologists.

The TF would like to extend the TF size with a Clinical Chemist to reach the full TF-PG size again. EB agreed.

13.01.04 Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease (TF-CKD)

EB received an update on behalf of GB: a growing number of Corresponding Members have joined the TF and some of these will present their national experience at the TF meeting at the EuroMedLab in Paris. The papers from the TF meeting will be collated and will be published in eJIFCC by agreement with the editor. The outstanding issue is finding a replacement for Graham Jones as TF Chair. It is very difficult to find a chair for this TF. Many officers have been contacted without success. In particular during this phase it should be good to have a clinician as Chair. If no Chair can be identified at the Paris meeting, EB may be faced with the decision to close the TF despite the excellent work that it is doing.

13.01.05 Task Force on Implementation of HbA1c Standardisation (TF-HbA1c)

EB agreed to close the current TF-HbA1c, establishing a more broadly based TF- Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (TF-EUBD), which includes continuing elements of TF-HbA1c. The aim will be to promote a harmonised approach to the use and interpretation of biomarkers in the diagnosis and management of diabetes. The TF should collaborate with IFCC SD and EMD, TF-POCT and WHO, IDF, WASPaLM. RH will have a meeting with the Chair at the EuroMedLab in Paris. In a meeting between RH, GB and Gary John during EuroMedLab it was discussed and laid out how the transition of the TF to a WG can happen and it was agreed how Gary John will move ahead.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

EB received update on behalf of GB: huge enthusiasm! The TF core group continues to have monthly meetings by Skype. The TF has developed a survey for completion by YS, it will be finalised at the EuroMedLab in Paris.

The TF ran a session at the AFCC congress in Harare and will have three meetings in Paris: a TF Open Session: all YS registered for the Paris meeting are invited to attend and to submit a short (5 minute) presentation of the issues (positive and negative) that they face as a YS; an Educational session: 'Collaborating Industry with Research & Laboratory – Two sides of same coin' and a debate 'The Youth EuroMedLab Network' This is open to all YS to attend.

The TF YS will run a joint session with WASPaLM at the Congress in Cancun in November 2015 in order to reach YS who attend WASPaLM rather than IFCC congresses.

Discussions have commenced on the research booklet for YS.

13.01.06 Task Force on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Biomarkers (TF-CB)

EB received an update on behalf of TO: a paper published ("*IFCC educational materials on selected analytical and clinical applications of high sensitivity cardiac troponin assays*", Clin Biochem

2015; 48:201-3).The educational documents were developed also in a condensed version now posted in the IFCC website and printed for their distribution among the attendees at the IFCC meetings.

Planned activities: clinical utility of all cTn assays other than hs-Tnc assays, including POCT assays; use of cardiac biomarkers in non-acute coronary syndromes (non-ACS); issues on the cardiac biomarkers in non-cardiac surgery to recognize post-operative MI.

The TF-CB was invited to participate in an IFCC-sponsored activity developed by the TF on POCT before the conjoint XXVIII World Congress of Pathology and Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology meetings, Cancun, Mexico, November 2015.

13.01.08 Task Force on POCT (TF-POCT)

EB received an update from RSA: the TF is focused on the organization of the IFCC TF-POCT meeting taking place before to the WASPaLM 28th World Congress in Cancun, November 2015.

13.01.11 Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT)

Not items to be discussed

13.01.12 Special History Project (SP-H)

EB noted that the IFCC National Society's project will be presented at the IFCC booth through an interactive touch screen map.

13.01.13 Task Force for Geriatrics Laboratory Medicine (TF -GLM)

EB received an update on behalf of GB: the start of this TF has been delayed for more than 1 year while we were waiting to see if AACC was willing to make a joint project. There has not been communication from AACC in the past three months, then probably IFCC should launch TF-GLM on its own. A TF Chair has to be identified to establish together the Terms of Reference which can be used to solicit nominations for TF Members.

The first project for the TF might be to write and publish a review on Geriatric Laboratory Medicine. From this review one or more projects may evolve, in areas such as: age related reference ranges , drug metabolism, new biomarkers of chronic and degenerative diseases, clinical guidelines for the investigation of defined disorders, educational support material for laboratory medicine specialists. The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics may agree to be an international clinical partner. The key next step is the identification of a TF Chair. EB agreed.

13.01.14 Task Force on "IFCC-CLMA Project on Leadership" (TF-IFCC CLMA)

EB received an update on behalf of GB. The TF objectives are: determine a model for assessing and comparing a country's capabilities to improve laboratory leadership competencies and the prioritization it attaches to that activity; verify the utility of the model through its application to a sampling of developed, newly industrialized and developing countries, using the model, identify unmet needs in the countries sampled, determine possible strategies for resolving unmet needs.

Initial Action Plan: establish a Task Force with representations from IFCC & CLMA; create a survey that identifies country-specific approaches to defining and measuring leadership competencies, consider CLMA's Body of Knowledge for Medical Laboratory Management and other models of leadership competencies in constructing the survey; identify approximately 10 countries to be studied using the developed model which should include ~3 developed countries, ~3 newly industrialized countries and ~4 developing countries; following analysis of the data, prepare a joint report to the IFCC and CLMA executive boards with findings and specific recommendations on the need for future work. The work should be completed no later than June 2016.

13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

EB agreed that PSEP and PMEP applications should be mostly reserved to developing countries and only in a very limited number of cases, for other countries. The EB would like to increase these programs with the support of CMs. During 2014 only 9 scholarships have been attributed (5 PSP and 4 PMEP), three of them in EU countries, one in Latin America and five in African countries.

13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

Update on IFCC – ROCHE scholarships in 2015

- 4th AFCC Congress in Harare, ZW, April 2015: Dinku Surafel Fentaw (Ethiopia), Semaria Solomon Alemayehu (Ethiopia), Kogotho Elisabeth Muringa (Kenya), Imoh Lucius Chidiebere (Kenya).
- 21th EuroMedLab in Paris, FR, June 2015: Galvez Sagastume Claudio Arafat (Guatemala), Sha Swarup AV (India), Thirunavukkarasu Rameswari (India, AFF), Mulyana (Indonesia), Dilanthi Waravitage (Sri Lanka), Dinh Thi Thanh Hoa (Vietnam).
- AACC Congress in Atlanta, US, July 2015: Renu Yadav (Nepal).

One scholarship each one is expected for the COLABIOCLI Congress in Quito, EC, September 2015 and for the 14th AFCB Congress in Khartoum, SD, December 2015

GB and MF will ask to J. Passarelli to increase the Roche support in 2016 and 2017 (more than the actual 20,000). MF: the number of travel scholarships can also be increased utilizing the IFCC budget.

Session 3: Saturday 20th morning

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD) (Leslie Lai)

9.2 Committees

9.2.4 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)

2015 Course in Vilnius, Lithuania, 12-17th July 2015; the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine and the Estonian Society for Laboratory Medicine decided to split the number of participants between Lithuania and Estonia giving up to 10 participants for each country. Dr. Vincent Thomas Alferos, (Manila, Philippines) was selected as the new IFCC Junior member.

9.2.5 Analytical Quality (C-AQ)

In February 2015 the “Directory of EQA Services” database was placed on the C-AQ website in the “Resources” section and is now accessible to all interested parties. It is planned to expand the presently available information with more detailed procedures for the planning of a new EQA scheme (for example, to achieve ISO 15189 accreditation).

It is planned to develop an eLearning presentation on “Principles of EQA and IQC”, this shall be both placed on the C-AQ website and provided to C-DL for worldwide training & promotion.

A paper has been published (“*Quality assurance in medical laboratories. Paths to global competence standards*”. Labor & more, 2015 In press).

9.2.7 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)

This Committee would like to work with members of the committee for distance learning (C-DL) and the communications and publications division (CPD) to advance the establishment of an on-line learning resource in EBLM and to look for opportunities to write (as a group) EBLM-focused articles for scientific journals – regionally and internationally, to offer and contribute to upcoming symposia or workshops.

9.2.8 Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

A workshop on the “The Essentials of Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories” at the 4th AFCC Congress, Victoria Falls, ZW, was held on April 2015 in Harare, ZW (50 delegates).

This Committee planned to produce documents for “Developing Quality Systems in the clinical laboratory” in collaboration with C-AQ by the end of 2016, to complete a laboratory questionnaire focussing on the assessment of quality management system in medical and clinical laboratories and to develop “Training Modules” on the C-CLM section of IFCC web site.

9.2.9 Distance Learning (C-DL)

The approval of material for the website is on-going as it becomes available, the curriculum development is on-going. The e-Academy development is going well and the first phase is scheduled to be launched during the EuroMedLab Congress in Paris. The mass spectrometry

module is being prepared by Dr Ronda Greaves and will be presented in the joint C-DL C-leL symposium on 23 June.

Proposed New Committee: "Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (Chair: John Garry). EB agreed.

9.3 Working Groups

9.3.8 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS)

Continuous management of an External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP) concerning 45 QIs of Key Processes: 28 to monitor the pre-analytical phase, 6 on the intra-analytical phase, 11 on the post-analytical phase, 5 QIs of Support Processes, 3 Outcome Measures. The participation of Laboratories all over the world is free, and the confidentiality of data is assured.

A paper has been published ("*Performance criteria and quality indicators for the pre-analytical phase*". Clin Chem Lab Med, 53: 943-8, 2015).

9.3.9 Cancer Genomics (WG-CG)

The first meeting of the working group is set for Sunday, June 21 in Paris

A Symposium for APFCB 2016 has been proposed on Clinical Cancer Genomics. The speakers are Paolo Fortina, Massimo Cristofanilli and Jason Park.

9.3.10 Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments (WG – ICQA)

This WG aimed bring together representatives of current and potential organisers of national EQA schemes for IC and experts in the area. The working group has been formed as follows: S. Vasikaran (chair), M. Plebani (IT), E. Kilpatrick (UK), A. Dighe (US), T. Badrick (AU), K. Sikaris (AU), J. French (UK), J. Osypiw (UK).

9.4 Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

14 applications approved in and CHF 35,401.84 utilised in 2014; 13 applications approved in 2015: Hong Kong, Taiwan, Lebanon, South Africa, Cyprus, Zambia, Paraguay, Romania, Morocco, China, Argentina, Philippines, Estonia. EB received a verbal report from MF regarding future funding for the VLP: MF will try to find other sponsors as well as Abbott.

9.4.2 Flow Cytometry (WG-FC)

The annual flow-cytometry workshop in co-operation with Beckman Coulter will take place from 27 to 29 October in Athens (GR). International flow-cytometry courses are being planned outside Europe, a first South American Course will be held in Argentina in September 2015 or in Brazil in 2016.

An additional workshop was offered, under IFCC auspices, in Krems Austria, 7 to 8 May 2015. The programmes of flow cytometry courses are available online via <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/working-groups-special-projects/course-on-flowcytometrywg-cf/>.

9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

A meeting of the DQCML Project team will be held at EuroMedLab 2015 on 22 June 2015.

The DQCML group would like to engage and collaborate with Chairs of EMD Committees and the IFCC-Abbott VLP Programme by seeking their support in the delivery of Quality Systems initiatives and utilising when appropriate their expertise and resource in the delivery of programmes under the DQCML Project.

Many contacts have been established for the delivery Quality Control workshop: the Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Bioquímica, the Association of Clinical Biochemistry of Sri Lanka, the Ukrainian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics. Moreover Dr Renze Bais has proposed for IFCC to continue helping Zambia with EQAP (the sum of AUD 3,400 needed for will be funded from the DQCML).

9.4.4 Mentoring Programme for Developing Countries (MENT)

MENT(Mentoring Program) can be done by e-mail or Skype whenever it is possible. Presently 11 active mentoring and 11 associate are available. It is intended to expand the program from south-Saharan Africa, in particular in LA with Spanish speaking mentors. French speakers mentors are also necessary. Very important for young professionals in Developing Countries.

10. Communications and Publications Division (CPD) (Khosrow Adeli)

Principal interests ongoing: Website, eJournal, eNews.

EB approved the 2nd term for three members: K. Adeli, E Delvin and T Pillary. PB will send the official communication.

10.2 Committees

10.2.1 Public Relations (C-PR)

EB approved Magdalena Krintus (PL) new member and A. Karabulut (TR) new corresponding member. VS suggested an advisor for AFCC. EB agreed.

PR brochure 201C- PR brochure for CMs is published only in English. The slide kits were updated.

LabsAreVital: is stymied by the current situation. Unless we get funding from Abbott and/or the transition is completed with the assignment of trademarks and copyrighted material (thus allowing us to get other funding sources) the consortium board (IFCCC, IFBLS, ASCP, WASPALM) has determined that the LabsAreVital program will have to be closed down. RH: It will be difficult to overcome the general perception that is an Abbott initiative. Other CMs might not wish to join as long as this name is linked to Abbott (who still holds the trademark). MF will have a meeting with the partners of IFCC to think about. GB suggested to move to a more clinical outcomes and effectiveness of Laboratory Medicine. KA will meet Abbott at the EuroMedLab in Paris.

10.3 Working Groups

10.3.1 Electronic Journal of the IFCC (WG-EJIFCC)

With contribution of InSoft the Design and graphic were improved as well as the content alternating themed issues to non themed ones. English editing.

10.3.1 Electronic Journal of the IFCC (WG-EJIFCC)

Flip and PDF versions have been introduced.

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

Not items to discuss.

IFCCeAcademy

Siemens will support to creation of new programs.

10.9.2 IFCC Booth

EB received a report from PB on next AACC Annual Meeting – Atlanta (GA-USA). No t items to be discussed.

10.20 Membership

10.40 Other business

11. IFCC Awards

EB received the report on behalf of HM:

The Awards Committee's membership 2015-2017 has been updated: Howard Morris (Chair), Muhidien Jouma, Leslie Lai, Grazyna Sypniewska, Vanessa Steenkamp, Larry Kricka.

- *Proposed Timetable for IFCC Awards for WorldMedLab 2017*

1st April 2015: verify sponsorship for each award;

1st February 2016: contact Organizing Committee of WorldMedLab 2017 to inform that the awards presentation is to be included as part of the opening ceremony of the Congress and that each awardee is to be provided with complementary registration for the Congress;

1st June 2016: issue call for nominations by letter to each National Representative and President as well as request inclusion of information on IFCC Web page and in eJIFCC;

30st November 2016: close nominations and distribute documentation to all members of the Awards Committee;

28st February 2017: inform the President IFCC of the decisions on successful applicants;

1st April 2017: the President informs the successful applicants etc;

1st August 2017: public announcement of the successful applicants;

EB approved the timetable.

EB will promote the awards to have more applications from many different countries. RSA and VS suggested to find a solution to open up the possibility to compete for an awards also to professionals living in countries disadvantaged from the scientific and professional point of view. EB agreed. VS, IFCC Award Committee member, will make a proposal on this topic.

14.0 IFCC Statutes and Rules

IFCC Statutes needs to be officially updated following the voting held in September 2014.

EB discussed the voting process for the election of the Regional Federation Representative in the EB serving 2018-2021.

EB opinion is that the Regional Federation representative cannot be directly nominated by the Regional EBs. The Regional Representatives in the EB have to be elected by mean of a democratic election from candidates nominated by NSs. IFCC will manage the ballot Region by Region. In the case of less than three NSs members the election can be omitted.

GB will write a paper about the election procedures to current presidents of the Regional Federations to collect suggestions. PB will check with Swiss lawyers all the steps that have to be made and then she will send to EB members the revised statute with explanations for a formal endorsement.

15. IFCC Finances

15.1 Treasurer's Report

EB received an update on finances on behalf of TO .

For all the IFCC operative units the actual expenses of the first five months of the year 2015 are lower than expected, considering the allocated annual budget.

The Full Members received dues 2015 are 79,76% of expected income; the Affiliate Members received dues 2015 are 54,18% of expected income; the CMs received dues 2015 are 45,34% of expected income, MF and TO will participate at the CMs meeting in EuroMedLab in Paris to find solutions for the delay in payment by many CMs.

EB agreed to update the number of Countries members and recalculate the membership fees.

16. Organizational Matter

16.1 IFCC Office

The space for the IFCC Secretary Office should be wider. SB will contact MZ.

16.3 IFCC Nominations Committee

EB receive report on behalf of BG and the suggested schedule for the NC activities is the following: Within September 2015: Chair sends letter to Nominations Committee members welcoming them and explaining the process.

- President Elect Election

1st February 2016 : call for nomination;

30th April 2016: deadline for receiving nominations;

1 – 31 May 2016 : nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate for the IFCC President Elect 2017 (for term in office 2018 – 2010);

1st June 2016: slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC;

1st – 30th September 2016: electronic ballot;

Within 31st October 2016: results;

1st January 2017: President Elect term begins;

- Secretary and Treasure election

15th May 2016: call for nominations and information regarding nominations procedure is sent to the National Societies and information about the Call for nominations for the Corporate Representative to the EB;

September 2016: Reminders to National Societies about nominations deadline, at least six weeks before the deadline for nominations. Reminders to Federations about nominations deadline, at least six weeks before the deadline for nominations;

15th December 2016: deadline for receiving nominations, 10 months before Council in Durban, October 2017;

16th Dec 2016 – 31st January 2017: nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate for the IFCC EB 2018-2020. The slate of candidates should be finalized 8 months before Council meeting (PM);

1st February 2017: slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC;

1st April – 30th April 2017: electronic Ballot for Secretary & Treasurer;

10 May 2017: announcement.

- Executive Members (Regional Members) Election

1st June 2017. commencement of elections for Regional Representatives;

30th September 2017 : announcement of elected Regional Representatives;

22nd October 2017: presentation at IFCC Council in Durban (ICCCLM).

- Corporate member (electronic ballot proposed)

15th May 2016: information about the Call for nominations for the Corporate Representative to the EB;

3rd January 2017: call for nominations for the Corporate Representative to the EB;

31st March 2017: deadline for receiving nominations;

1st – 15th April 2017: nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate for the IFCC CM;

16th April 2017: slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC CM;

1st June- 30th June 2017: electronic Ballot;

15th July 2017 (as for the EB members announcement): announcement.

EB approved this timetable.

16.4 Annual Report for 2014

EB noted that the Annual Report is now available in the IFCC website.

16.5 IFCC Handbook 2015-2017

EB noted that the new edition of the Handbook, is electronically available through the IFCC website. USB with Handbook will be distributed as give aways at the IFCC Booth, to National Representatives attending the EuroMedLab Congress.

16.40 Other business

Key Directory: EB approved the proposal to update the current version, and to prepare it as electronic file only.

18. Foundation

Not substantial progress with the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations were reported by GB. The project will go on.

19 Meetings

19.6 - IFCC General Conference

EB received from BG an update about the General Conference organization and discuss the updated programme.

DAY 1 (closed meetings): IFCC EB, Division EC meetings, Cs/WGs and TFs meetings, IFCC EB and Div Chairs meet their Cs and WGs Chairs.

DAY 2 Opening of the GC, Strategic Plan (IFCC President), Treasurer's report, Corporate members' report (round table), Federations' reports (round table); "Have your say" (organized by EMD), EMD report, (3 speakers-round table); "Have your say" (organized by CPD) CPD report (3 speakers-round table); Dinner with Keynote address (VIP) and discussion «Integrating Lab Med into the economy of the Health care ecosystem» (Speaker: Economist, Clinician, Reps from Industry / Int Org.,etc...).

DAY 3 Continuation of the EB/Divs (C's+WGs) closed meetings; "Have your say" (organized by SD) SD report (3 speakers Clinicians, CM, Regional:Nat Rep-round table); "Have your say" (organized by the C-CC) C-CC report ("What future for the congresses and conferences?"); Simultaneous interactive workshops organized by TFs, National Reps, Regions Clinicians, Corporates, WGs.

DAY 4 Continuation of the EB/Div (C's+WGs meetings); "Have your say" (from the Corporate Members) Corporate Members' report (Key note The future of IVD/ medical devices market: "Connecting Lab professionals, Industry, patients, providers and payers"); Closing remarks by the IFCC President «Outcome of the General conference and new perspectives for IFCC».

EB discussed on how to encourage CMs to participate at the GC. The presence of CMs, is important and their participation should be encouraged. In KL were almost 20 CMs involved in IFCC activities. MF: can be an opportunity for CMs to meet NRs from all the world with a small contribute. This plan will be presented by RH and MF at the meeting with CMs at the EuroMedLab in Paris. A booklet with the contributions from the divisions to show their main objectives and activities will be made, MF will contact CPD to realise it. Budget: five night for committees and EB members. Total expenses 137.857 euro. EB approved the plan and the budget for the GC.

Session 4: Saturday 20th afternoon

5. Regional Organisations – Part 2

Meeting with Presidents of Regional Federations. Participants: L. Chabroui (President of Arab Federation of Clinical Biology), Leslie Lay (President of Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine), Mauro Panteghini (President of European Federation of representative respectively of North American Association for Clinical Chemistry) and David D. Koch (substitute for David Kinniburgh NAFCC representative 2015-2017).

MP made a presentation of EFLM aims and activities

EFLM represents IFCC in Europe with 40 Members, EFLM should act as a collector of proposals and/or concerns from EFLM members and, if necessary, to bring these to the attention of the international community. The 2014-2015 EFLM Strategic Plan included 33 actions, 24 of them were achieved so far.

Recently an agreement on the organization and staffing of administrative offices of IFCC and EFLM has been signed under the supervision of MZ Congressi. The joined IFCC-EFLM Guidelines for the EuroMedLab will be signed at the EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris The Memorandum of Understanding and a Working agreement between IFCC and EFLM will be signed soon.

Some specific activities:

- 1 EFLM finalized in a paper the results from the 1st EFLM Strategic Conference in Milan, November 2014: "Defining analytical performance specifications: "Consensus Statement from the 1st Strategic Conference of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine", Clin Chem Lab Med 2015. An EFLM Task Force on Performance Specifications in Laboratory Medicine (TF-PS) has then been created to coordinate the activities of the Task & Finish Group (TFG) established as outcome of the 1st Strategic Conference.

- 2 the TFG-Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidemia. The activities are focused on pre-analytical issues (i.e. need for fasting samples?), analytical issues (role of alternative lipid and lipoprotein measures, apoB and low-density lipoprotein particle number) and post-analytical issues: standardisation of cut-offs for 'ideal' concentrations.
- 3 A newly proposed project: Standardization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures.
- 4 The C-ET project on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Crediting System which aim is to recognise the situation in postgraduate education and CPD in European Countries, to standardise the CPD in EFLM societies, to prepare the 'Rulebook on continuous education and continuous professional development of specialist in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine' and a position paper on CPD in EFLM Countries.
- 5 The WG-CPE project: Exchanging practice and practical training within EFLM countries to identify EFLM members who need for practical training in laboratories in the country or abroad, set up possibility and readiness of laboratories offering such practical training in EFLM countries.
- 6 EFLM Events: *3rd EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase - Preanalytical quality improvement - in pursuit of harmony*, March 20-21, 2015, Porto.
EFLM Symposium on Education Prague, Education in Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine, Prague, April 24–26, 2015.
EFLM Symposium in Balkan Region, Laboratory Medicine Specialist Focuses on the Patients Well-being, Belgrade, May 14–15, 2015.
 Forthcoming EFLM events: *Symposium Cutting Edge at Laboratory Medicine*, Prague, October 1-2, 2015; *15th EFLM Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine*, Zagreb, Croatia October 24-25, 2015; *Laboratory medicine at the clinical interface*, Warsaw, September 21-24, 2016.

Finally MP pointed out that Regional federations need to discuss as soon as possible how they will address the change in IFCC EB membership and how will they elect their representatives. During the EFLM GM in Liverpool, Oct 2014, the IFCC President informally said that call for nominations should go from each Regional Federation to IFCC Full Members and that IFCC will have no role in it.

Leslie Lai made a presentation of APFCB aims and actions

New members: Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL) was admitted as Full Member, Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co. Ltd. was admitted as a Corporate member. Presently 17 Full members, 3 Affiliate members and 18 Corporate members are included in APFCB.

Some specific activities:

- 1 Education and Laboratory Management Committee: *IFCC-Abbott VLP 2015-2016* (Prof Howard Morris is the IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer to the Asia-Pacific region in 2015 and 2016 Topic: Vitamin D and bone disease, lectures in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Australia, South Korea and Malaysia); *APFCB Travelling Lecturer 2015-2016* (Dr Graham Jones, topics on Chronic Kidney Disease - the role of the routine laboratory, Getting the right answer to manage the patient - the importance of traceability, HbA1c - measurement and Interpretation, lectures in Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Velore, Nanjing, Hong Kong).
- 2 WASPaLM World Congress, Cancun: APFCB-sponsored Quality/Accreditation workshop.
- 3 Interpretative Comments Programme: the response varies between 30 and 70 participants but there is strong support from a core of participants. A total of eight cases planned for 2015.
- 4 Pre-Analytical Working Group (working together with EFLM Pre-Analytical Group): some questionnaires will be validated for assessing the key challenges that laboratories face in managing the pre-analytical phase, surveys to assess the current pre-analytical challenges in laboratories and their importance in order to define how best the working group can support laboratories in the Asia-Pacific region will be send to laboratories to find solutions/guidance for laboratories to address the top pre-analytical challenges.
- 5 Awareness of Environmental Impact of Clinical Laboratories: survey of Suppliers on Environmental awareness will be send as well as survey of senior lab staff in SE Asia region

about environmental awareness. Travel to Philippines and Indonesia will be made in order to establish test labs and base power/water/waste measurements.

- 6 Development of Material for self-directed learning for QA/QC/Lab Accreditation on the webpage: this material will be developed as an online assessed programme of basic QA/QC. Some material has been posted on the APFCB website, sourced (and modified) from Randox. This is continuing.
- 7 The regional multicenter study on reference values: a paper based on the Asian Reference Intervals Study was just published (*"Sources of variation analysis and derivation of reference intervals for ALP, LDH and amylase isoenzymes using sera from the Asian multicenter study on reference values"* Clinica Chimica Acta 2015, 446: 64-72). The interactive EBLM viewer web-site based on the results of the Asian Study will be publicised in August 2015 after planned demonstration during the C-RIDL meetings in Paris, Pakistan teams from Karachi and Rawalpindi have just finished their recruitment and measurement (total data size 1200), Bangladesh has just finished sampling from 650 volunteers and measurements are under way, Philippines' test results from 820 volunteers will be disclosed during the Paris C-RIDL meetings, Indian and Chinese teams are in the process of writing papers of their studies.
- 8 Chronic Kidney Disease Working Group: to date only ACBI, AMBI and AACB are members of the IFCC TF on CKD, the presentations on the topic of CKD as APFCB TL in different locations in the Asia-Pacific region include a strong focus on the existence of international guidelines from KDIGO and the benefits of a common national or regional approach.
- 9 Urine steroid metabolomic studies by gas chromatography mass spectrometry to aid the diagnosis of disorders of sexual development in Vietnamese children: Dr Ronda Greaves visited NHP and demonstrated solid phase extraction and supported set-up of the initial steroid method with pure compounds in December 2014. Once the method validation is successfully completed and the EQA is deemed satisfactory, the reference interval (RI) section of this project will commence.
- 10 Young Scientists Competition: the top five YS will be selected for oral presentations at an APFCB-sponsored symposium at the APFCB Congress in Taiwan in November 2016 (Sponsored by Siemens).
- 11 Turning Science into Caring IFCC-APFCB-Abbott Scientific Symposium in the Asia-Pacific Region in Bangkok, Thailand from 1-3 September 2015. Topics to be covered include General Clinical Chemistry, Oncology, Women's Health, Metabolic Disease, Laboratory Automation and Haematology updates.
- 12 APFCB-Beckman Coulter Scientific Symposium (New activity): theme Laboratory Process Management Today - Gaining Efficiency and Effectiveness through Automation & Informatics This scientific activity will be held in the following countries:Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

L. Chabraoui, Arab Federation of Clinical Biology

The President pointed out the great problems in AFCB due to the difficulties in many Arab Countries because of the war and the political instability. There are not new plans from the last meeting with the EB in Rome.

All the Presidents and the AACCC-CEO ask to the EB clarifications on:

- 1) how it will be managed the future elections of Regional Representatives in the next EB (2018-2021);
- 2) how it will be handled the participation of the Regional Representatives during the current EB.

Item n.1 MF showed the opinion of EB on the managing of the Elections of Regional Federations Representatives in the EB 2018-2021:

- Only NSs members of IFCC have the right to express a vote;
- Every single Regional Federation can submit with its own procedures the candidates;
- The ballot for each Regional Federation will be done by the IFCC Office.

GB, which is in charge to manage the changes of the Statute and possibly the election rules, will send to Regional Federation Presidents the last draft of the new Statute. By Quito the Presidents will send suggestions. Then GB and PB will start the process with the Swiss layers. MF will send a letter to Kazakhstan and Iran inviting them to contact Lesli Lay to be included in APFCB.

Item n.2 EB discussed with the Regional Federations the opportunity to invite or to co-opt the Regional representative of the Regions actually not present in the EB during the period of transition versus the new Statute.

EB agreed to co-opt the representative and NAACC (D. Kinninburg) considering the MoU recently signed between AACC-CSCC and IFCC and to invite the APFCB and AFCB according to a rule that have to be established all together.

MP does not agree because all the Regional Federation President might be invited regardless of the fact that there are or not in the EB members belonging to their region.

EB will continue the discussion on this item at the next meeting in Quito, 27-28 September 2015.