Executive Summary - Scientific Division 37th Meeting, Damascus, Syria, April 28-29, 2006.

Present: Mauro Panteghini (Chair), Ian Young (Vice-Chair), Howard Morris (Secretary), Philippe Gillery, Lothar Siekmann, Jean-Claude Forest (JCTLM Consultant) and Mathias Müller (EB) while Rolf Hinzmann (Corporate Representative) attended only on 29th April. Ms Paola Bramati (IFCC Office) was in attendance.

6.2 CLSI: The list of joint CLSI/IFCC Projects and their IFCC consultants have been reviewed.

6.31 INSTITUTE FOR REFERENCE MATERIALS AND MEASUREMENTS (IRMM )
Projects are progressing to prepare Certified Reference Materials in collaboration with a number of SD Committees and Working Groups.

8.2 MAIN ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES
8.2.6 C-NPU: A document on the IFCC recommendation on units and nomenclature for HbA1c has been submitted for mail ballot by National Representatives.

8.2.11 C-MD: Priority areas are finalizing a document in collaboration with EMD and the development of a network of locus specific IFCC Molecular Diagnostics Centers.

8.2.13 C-PP: Future work will finalize preparation of a document describing the protocol for transferring values from CRM470 reference material to commercial protein calibrators and continue collaboration with IRMM for the 2nd Preparation CRM470.

8.2.19 C-SMCD: Work includes standardisation of cTnI, cross-reactivity studies of B-type Natriuretic Peptide assays and collection of data and preparation of a database describing the analytical performance of commercial cTnI assays.
8.2.21 C-RSE: A document on the IFCC recommendation on a reference method for the Amylase has been submitted to mail ballot by National Representatives. Development of reference methods for Alkaline Phosphatase and Lipase continues.

8.2.22 C-POCT: Priority areas are preparation of guidelines on the preanalytical process for POCT and collection of data on potential interferents in POCT.

8.2.23 C-TLM: Evaluation of results in terms of performance criteria and scheduling of ring trials for reference laboratory are underway.

8.2.24 C-RIDL: collaboration with CLSI on revision of document C28-A2 has progressed very well.

8.3 MAIN ACTIVITIES OF WORKING GROUPS

8.3.3 WG-SEB: Publication of a manuscript “Measuring and reporting chloride by ISEs in serum, plasma or blood” took place in the March 2006 issue of CCLM.

8.3.8 WG-MA: Work of the production and characterisation of the new SP3-08 apo B reference material continues.

8.3.16 WG-SHCG: A manuscript describing an external QA study to assess the impact of the use of the new HCG reference materials on assay performance is prepared.

8.3.19 WG-HbA1c: Work by the WG on secondary reference materials is underway.

8.3.33 WG-STFT: Candidate reference measurement systems for TT4 and TT3 have been completed and candidate secondary reference materials for TT4 and TT3 have been prepared that are useful for reference procedures.

8.3.35 WG-HbA2: Considerable progress has been made with the development of a reference procedure with the standardization of the tryptic digestion of HbA2 and characterization of the tryptic peptides.

8.3.36 WG-CDT: The analyte has been defined as the disialotransferrin form and work on a reference procedure is underway.

8.3.37 WG-SCC: Recombinant human cystatin C has been produced in suitable quantities and it is currently being characterized.

8.3.38 WG-GFRA: A new MDRD equation for the calculation of the Glomerular Filtration Rate has been derived for serum creatinine measurements traceable to the IDMS method.

8.3.39 WG-SMA: Current discussion involves the definition of the analyte.

8.3.40 WG-PAPPA: The WG is underway with support from companies producing PAPP-A assays.

8.3.41 WG-GH: The search for a Chair has been completed.

8.8 PROJECT PROPOSALS: “Standardisation of serum/plasma insulin assays” project has elicited considerable interest amongst international organisations and industry. Final discussions for a project proposal are underway.

8.13 JCTLM: New IFCC representatives on the JCTLM Executive are Jean-Claude Forest (Chair), Mathias Muller and Mauro Panteghini.

8.19 MEETINGS
8.19.38 38th SD meeting will take place in Milan, Italy on 29-30 September 2006.