IFCC General Conference 2018
Laboratory medicine: Preparing for the 2020’s
10th – 11th November 2018
Hotel Novotel Budapest City, Hungary

Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide

GC attendance: 71 countries represented
Total participants: 266 (excluding accompanying - 60)

in blue: countries that are IFCC members
Star: indicates a representation
Survey questions sent out to all IFCC National Representatives (92 Full Members and 15 Affiliates Societies) as well as to 42 Corporate Members (Total 149)

- Q1: What are the 3 most urgent challenges facing your Society or Organization?
- Q2: What are the 3 most important challenges facing Laboratory Medicine?
- Q3: With respect to the challenges facing your Society (Organization) and Laboratory Medicine, what are the 3 most important contributions that the IFCC could make to address these challenges?

61 replies – Most of whom we believe were Full or Affiliate Societies

Q1: What are the 3 most urgent challenges facing your Society or Organization?

Training/Education (including CME)
- Harmonization of the curriculum/status for lab professionals
- Lack of management training
- Lack of educators/training programmes

Declining number of members of National Societies/ lack of interest and commitment of NS members/ shortage of lab professionals

Poor profession visibility and recognition by the clinicians/authorities/society. Poor communication with other specialties/medical societies

Funding/financial resources
- Unaffordable equipment/reagents/EQA
- Poor reimbursement of lab tests
- Unaffordable participation at professional/scientific meetings

Quality management
Q2: What are the 3 most important challenges facing Laboratory Medicine?

Training/ future of the profession
- Training (knowledge, skills) becoming more demanding because of the emerging technologies, big data, ethic issues
- Increasing workload
- Expected shortage of laboratory technologists in the next 5 years
- Risk for unqualified technicians and technologists handling the medical laboratories

Profession visibility and recognition
- Need for recognition of the profession as an important/equal part of the health system

Funding

Harmonization, standardization
- Harmonisation and standardization of laboratory methods, reference values and units.

Q2: What are the 3 most important challenges facing Laboratory Medicine?

Quality management
- Implementation of Total Quality Management in Clinical Analysis Laboratories

POCT
- Need for quality management implementation for POCT
- Lack of regulation in the private practice

Emerging technologies, big data
- Increasing complexity of laboratory tests menus, implementation of emerging technologies
- Development of personalized medicine
- Bioengineering = Nanotechnology, Biotechnology (omics...), Information technology and Cognitive science; (Artificial intelligence and Big data, Robotics/ 3D), telemedicine

Ethics
- Genetics, stem cells
Q3: With respect to the challenges facing your Society (Organization) and Laboratory Medicine, what are the 3 most important contributions that the IFCC could make to address these challenges?

**Education, training**
- Online training
- Unification of tasks, responsibilities and protocols for lab specialists
- International profession recognition

**Young professionals involvement/training**

**Conferences, speakers/VLP**
- Maintaining and developing VLP
- Lectures given in the native languages

**Guidance and support for National Societies (general/specific)**
- Strategy
- Specific guidelines/translation of laboratory guides
- Sharing successful experiences

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Q3: With respect to the challenges facing your Society (Organization) and Laboratory Medicine, what are the 3 most important contributions that the IFCC could make to address these challenges?

**Quality management**

**Harmonization/standardization/POCT**

**Profession visibility/recognition**
- Support/lobby to highlight the importance of laboratory medicine

**Support for developing countries**
- Financial support (registration fees, scholarships)
- Professional and scientific support

**Collaboration between countries**
- Regional meetings
- Specialists exchanges