IFCC AUSPICES
Guidelines and Procedures

1. Definition

“Auspices” of the IFCC designates recognition of a professional event of high scientific and/or educational merit.

2. Introduction

The IFCC is committed to maintaining and promoting a world-wide exchange of information in Clinical Chemistry and all disciplines of Laboratory Medicine. Thus the IFCC supports a variety of ways highly qualified congresses, conferences or other scientific/educational events for clinical laboratory scientists and physicians.

With the above in mind, organizers of these events, either with or without IFCC affiliation, frequently contact the IFCC to request assistance in the promotion and support of their event.

The IFCC, for its part, is greatly interested in lending as much support as it can towards the success of high quality scientific/educational events that will contribute to the awareness and appreciation of Laboratory Medicine and its contribution to the delivery of appropriate health care. This desire prompted the preparation of these guidelines.

3. Purpose of IFCC Auspices

The IFCC will grant auspices for congresses, conferences and other scientific/educational events that comply with these guidelines in order to assist organizing committees with the promotion of their event and to attract professional participation.

The granting of IFCC Auspices and the involvement of the IFCC in high quality scientific/educational events enhances the field of Laboratory Medicine and the reputation of the IFCC.

4. Compliance with Applicable Codes of Ethical Business Practice

National and international agencies have established codes of ethical business practice that are applicable to in vitro diagnostic (IVD) industry and third party educational event organizers such as the IFCC and national societies.

The IFCC endorses these codes of ethical business practice and supports compliance for all educational events developed and/or supported by the IFCC.

A code with significant impact to the IFCC is the “MedTech Europe Code of Ethical Business Practice” since this code is applicable from an IFCC perspective to all third party educational events held in Europe or anywhere in the world if the delegates are from two or more “European” countries. Therefore this code or other comparable national or international codes may be applicable to educational events for which IFCC auspices may be requested.


To alleviate the complex administrative burden of determining compliance and to harmonize interpretation of the code, “EthicalMedTech” hosts a platform referred to as the “Conference Vetting System” that enables third party educational event organizers to ensure compliance with the MedTech Europe Code of Ethical Business Practice. http://www.ethicalmedtech.eu/conference-vetting-system/objective

The IFCC requires use of the EthicalMedTech - Conference Vetting System to ensure code compliance for all applicable third party educational events. For third party educational events for which the MedTech Europe Code of Ethical Business Practice is not applicable, the IFCC recommends a method of self-assessment to ensure compliance with any other applicable code(s) of ethical business practice.


5. Purpose of Guidelines

These guidelines have been prepared to:

- Create awareness of the availability of IFCC auspices.
- Assist event organizers in the application process.
- Indicate the requirement for IFCC assessment of the content and quality of the event.
- Offer the resources of the IFCC to assist organizers with any aspect of their event, especially in promoting the event on the IFCC website and when appropriate providing assistance with the scientific/educational content.
6. Eligibility for IFCC Auspices

IFCC Auspices may be sought by:

- Any IFCC Member Society, Specialty Group or Corporate Member.
- An organization without IFCC affiliation for an event directly related to the goals of the IFCC.
- On occasion the IFCC may invite an organization to apply for IFCC Auspices.

7. Application Process

Applications must be submitted to the Chair of the IFCC Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC) using the IFCC Auspices Application Form. 
http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/ifcauspicesapplicationform/

All relevant details of the scientific/educational programme, venue and meeting organization must accompany the application form.

Applications should be submitted as early as possible to enhance the promotional impact of the IFCC.

For events taking place in Europe, according to the agreement between IFCC and EFLM for a mutual recognition of auspices, organizing committees are invited to apply also for EFLM auspices in order to enhance the global visibility at both the International and European levels. To apply for EFLM auspices, please refer to the EFLM website (www.eflm.eu).

8. Approval of IFCC Auspices

The IFCC Committee on Congresses and Conferences will review the application and take a decision based on the excellence of the event.

The Chair of the Committee on Congresses and Conferences will inform the applicant of the decision in writing.

Where IFCC Auspices are approved the applicants will be expected to acknowledge the support of the IFCC towards the success of the meeting in the official programme of that event.

9. IFCC Support

Financial Support: the granting of IFCC Auspices does not imply any financial agreement between the organizers of the event and the IFCC.

Publicity and Promotion: the granting of IFCC Auspices indicates that the official IFCC logo should be used on all relevant brochures and publications. It is available from the IFCC Technical Secretariat.

Notices of events approved for IFCC Auspices will be included in the list of IFCC Congresses, Conference and Exhibitions, which is part of the IFCC web-site (www.ifcc.org).

IFCC Corporate Members: the IFCC will encourage its Corporate Members to support an event approved for IFCC Auspices.

Scientific and Educational Programme: the organizing committee of events granted IFCC Auspices are able to request assistance from the Divisions and Committees of the IFCC either for the recommendation of speakers or for the organization of symposia or workshops. Any such assistance provided will not be at cost to the IFCC.

10. Obligations towards the IFCC

Applicants for IFCC Auspices must not make any claims for IFCC support until written approval has been obtained.

Once IFCC Auspices have been granted the organizing committee has a responsibility to:

- Use the IFCC logo on all promotional material;
- Insert an acknowledgement of IFCC support in the event programme;
- Notify IFCC of any major changes in the arrangements for or content of an approved event;
- Maintain the highest professional standards with regard to the scientific and educational content of the event.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable Codes of Ethical Business Practice.

11. Free Circulation of Scientists

The IFCC subscribes to the principles of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) concerning the free circulation of scientists as published in: “Advice to Organizers of International Scientific Meetings” 1983/84 (available from the ICSU Secretariat, 51 Blvd de Montmorency, F-75016, Paris, France).

IFCC Auspices cannot be granted to any event that does not adhere to these principles.