

Summary

119th Meeting Executive Board Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 2-3, 2013

Minutes

Members:

Dr. G Beastall (GB)

Prof. J Hicks (JH)

Prof. H Morris (HM)

Dr. B Gouget (BG)

Prof. S Bernardini (SB)

Prof. L Kricka (LK)

Prof V Steenkamp (VS)

Dr. U Tuma (UT)

President

Past President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Member

Member

Member

Apology:

Dr. T Brinkmann (TB)

Corporate Representative

In attendance:

Ms P Bramati (PB)

IFCC Office

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

No new applications. EB noted the possible interest in IFCC full membership from Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and in affiliate membership from Kosovo.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.2 Applications for Corporate Membership were approved as follows: ELGA Labwater (3.01.85) and PPD Inc (3.01.86). EB noted the interest in Corporate Membership from Cepheid and Instrumentation Laboratory and that De Gruyter (3.1.40) and Perkin Elmer (3.1.37) will not renew Corporate Membership in 2013.

4.0 Affiliate Members

Palestine Medical Technology Association has been encouraged to apply as full member but to date there is no response.

5.0 Regional Organisations

5.01 Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)

No new business notified. EB noted that GB will attend national society meetings in Korea and China.

5.02 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

Key points from the EB meeting with representatives of the COLABIOCLI Executive Board at the Fundacion Biochimica Argentina.

- 1) GB showed the ways IFCC can support IFCC members in Latin America (Rincón Iberoamericano, Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations, Visiting Lecturer Programme, Professional Exchange Programmes, Roche travel scholarships, the presence of IFCC speakers and symposia at COLABIOCLI congresses, the improvement in communication in Spanish from IFCC Office).
- 2) GB showed the IFCC Strategic Plan and in particular the item n. 10 focused on the improvement of communication between COLABIOCLI and IFCC Members in Latin America, the support of at least one new project in the Region and the conclusion of a formal agreement between IFCC and COLABIOCLI.
- 3) GB suggested a revision of the COLABIOCLI constitution to make the Board more representative of its Members, the formation of a COLABIOCLI Corporate Members group who can join with COLABIOCLI to devise and support joint projects in Latin America, the updating of the COLABIOCLI website, including the link to the IFCC website.
- 4) The President of COLABIOCLI, Carlos Navarro, agreed to conclude the MoU and working agreement between IFCC and COLABIOCLI. Nevertheless some flexibility is needed considering that some members of COLABIOCLI are not members of IFCC and that each region has different priorities. The details of the MoU will be discussed outside this meeting.
- 5) Daniel Mazziotta showed a project on the "Traceability in Clinical Laboratory": in Argentina the standardisation/harmonisation of laboratory practice is extremely urgent, indeed the analytical systems are very heterogeneous in particular in the small labs. IFCC can support the project by means of C-TLM and many WGs working on standardization/harmonization. DM will prepare an abstract to submit to SD of IFCC.
- 6) Roberto Garcia showed the project "Salud Sexual Y Reproductiva-Disfuncion Vaginal" that is very interesting for IFCC, indeed "Woman's health" is one of the priority for WHO (GPW 2012). IFCC can provide education (e-learning by CPD-EMD) and scientific/ organizational support to the project. Some IFCC Corporate Members can be involved from the financial point of view.

5.04 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

EB noted that the EFLM EB met in January 2013. EB discussed the following items arising from the Minutes which refer to the relationship between EFLM and IFCC:

- 1) Need for guidelines for a joint policy related to EuroMedLab bidding and conflict of interest;
- 2) Regional Presidents should be on IFCC EB as of right;

- 3) NSs membership fees for both Region and IFCC should be a single collection and then the Region remits dues to IFCC;
- 4) Reciprocity of auspices and formal linkages between EFLM and IFCC for meetings to avoid duplication of activities;
- 5) Better consultation and interaction with Regions should improve the contextualization of Regional problems looking at the global situation and the reverse;
- 6) Avoid duplication for the membership between IFCC and EFLM WGs.

The IFCC EB considered each of these points in detail. Some of them (n.2 and n.3) are a constitutional challenge because changes in IFCC Statutes would be needed. EB encourages communication between IFCC and EFLM and can work on for points 1, 4, 5 and 6. A draft letter will be made by GB to answer to EFLM proposals. A Joint meeting between IFCC and EFLM EBs will be held in Milan.

5.05 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

The Federation is formed by eleven Arab countries. During the 2nd EB meeting (Beirut October 5th), Dr. Salwa Amarin (Jordan) was charged to improve the AFCB website (www.afcbforyou.org). Dr. Osama Najjar (Palestine) was charged to the coordination between AFCB and IFCC; Dr. Wadie Khrouf (Tunisia) was charged to the coordination of the assurance quality activities.

EB noted that no new business was notified and that GB will attend national society meetings in Jordan and Algeria. He will discuss progress with the agreement between IFCC and AFCB

5.06 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

The AFCC currently consists of 14 members countries (in 2013 Botswana joined the AFCC). The website of the AFCC was launched (www.afccafrica.com). The organization of the 3rd congress of the AFCC to be held in Cape Town July 28-31 has been started; a workshop on quality management and a 5-days, hands on molecular biology workshop will be held with the support of the IFCC. The President was co-convenor at the 1st International conference of the ASLM: "International Collaboration with ASLM to strengthen Laboratory Medicine"; this participation was important considering the MoU between ASLM and IFCC.

EB noted that JH and D Young will run a quality management course in Zambia and Zimbabwe in March 2013.

5.1 American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC)

EB noted that Ann Gronowski has completed her term of office as National Representative. Gary Myers will undertake this role on an interim basis. No new business was notified by Gary Myers other than acknowledgement of the suggestion for a joint meeting between IFCC and AACC EBs in 2014.

EB discussed the International Harmonization Consortium: GB reported that the AACC felt unable to admit IFCC to the Council of the International Consortium without payment of the fee of \$50,000pa. However, IFCC can become a Strategic Partner for \$500pa and could still nominate individuals to serve on the Harmonisation Oversight Group. GB and I Young would continue to participate in discussions with AACC.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

GB attended the WHO Executive meeting in January 2013 followed by a meeting with Dr Willy Urassa who has been appointed as IFCC liaison. Some collaborative proposals have been discussed and approved:

- 1) WHO-IFCC booklet on laboratory diagnosis and monitoring of diabetes mellitus,
- 2) Global code of Ethics in laboratory medicine made together with the major laboratory organisations (WASPaLM, IFBLS, AACP and others),
- 3) Contribution by WHO to IFCC symposia in IFCC WorldLab Istanbul 2014.
- 4) "Global Forum of the role of laboratory medicine in health care 2014",

- 5) Laboratory accreditation (WHO AFRO),
Strategy for some WHO priorities such as the “prevention and control of communicable disease” and the “Women’s Health”.

GB indicated that further discussion with Dr Urassa will help to refine these projects.

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

EB noted the very positive ongoing discussions with WASPALM regarding the transition of ‘Labs are Vital’.

6.22.1 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

EB noted that Mathias Muller has been appointed as Chair of JCTLM for a second two year period and that GB attended the JCTLM Executive Committee meeting held in December 2012 .

6.23 International Standards Organisation (ISO)

EB noted the report from Neil Greenberg on the ISO TC 212 WG 2 on Reference Systems which met in Atlanta in January 2013. The meeting was a great success with 24 attendees (academic, government and industry representatives). Great progress has been made towards a revised version of ISO 17511.

6.38 International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)

EB noted that GB will attend a meeting with IHTSDO in April 2013 to discuss collaboration on aligning the NPU terminology with SNOMED-CT.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2 IFCC WorldLab Congresses

7.2.22 IFCC WorldLab Istanbul 2014 (22-26 June 2014 www.istanbul2014.org)

The 3rd COC meeting held on January 21st in Istanbul and the progress with the scientific programme is good. IFCC will sponsor 5 symposia (2 from SD, one each from EMD, CPD and EB). Each of which will include four lectures. A symposium will be presented on ‘The impact of laboratory medicine on clinical outcomes’ (Chair GB).

7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017

It will be held at the Durban International Convention Center 22-26th, October 2017. The President of the Congress (Rajiv Erasmus) solicited the opinion of the C-CC regarding the possibility to move the Congress to the beginning of the year 2018 to have the opportunity to organize a joint meeting with other African associations in the field of Laboratory Medicine. C-CC will inform the EB about the decision on this request.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020

The call for bids will be sent to the IFCC National Representatives in March-April 2013.

7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

7.3.1.13 APFCB Bali 2013 (27-30 October 2013 <http://apfcbcongress2013.org>)

The final programme for the congress will be asked by the C-CC for the next EB meeting.

7.3.2.20 EuroMedLab Milano 2013 (19-23 May 2013, Milano Convention Centre www.milan2013.org). EB noted the completion of the programme and high level of interest in this congress for which more than 1000 abstracts have been received. IFCC will sponsor 3 symposia. Eight IFCC-Roche travel Scholarships are available.

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab Paris 2015

The agreement among SFBC, IFCC, EFLM and MZ has been signed. The COC structure and the timetable has been approved. The first announcement will be presented at the EuroMedLab in Milan.

7.3.2.22 EuroMedLab 2017

EB noted that three bids to host EuroMedLab 2017 have been received: Athens, Barcelona and Prague. C-CC and EFLM are jointly evaluating the three bids and will provide an advisory report. Selection will occur during the EFLM General Assembly in Milano in May 2013.

7.3.4.21 COLABIOCLI 2013 Lima, Peru

EB noted that the next COLABIOCLI congress will be held in Lima, Peru from 29 October to 1 November 2013. UT will be the IFCC representative at this meeting.

7.3.6.14 AFCB 2015 Sudan

EB noted that this congress will be held in Khartoum in November 2015.

7.3.7.3 AFCC 2013

The 3rd congress of the AFCC will be held jointly with the Laboratory Medicine Congress 28-31 July, 2013 in the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town (South Africa).

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

7.4.1 Roche Bergmeyer Conference (March 2014, Eibsee, Germany)

SD has commenced planning for this conference. The theme of the conference will be 'Women's Health', a priority area for WHO.

7.5 Congress Guidelines

EB considered and approved document from C-CC: "Guidance for organizing a national and international congresses"

7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices

The list of congresses awarded IFCC auspices is updated and published on the IFCC website.

7.9 IFCC General Conference

EB considered the results of the survey conducted following the GC in Kuala Lumpur. The survey showed that the GC had been a great success, and a very useful experience to bring together the IFCC world family. Seventeen workshops were conducted in Kuala Lumpur, the attendance ranged from 20 to 50, the feedback for all of them was very interesting and they can have some implications for the IFCC Strategic Plan. EB considered the reports from Roche scholarship recipients at the GC in Kuala Lumpur and noted that a summary would be published in IFCC News. The timing and possible venue for the next General Conference will be discussed in the next EB meeting in Milan.

EB also considered the "IFCC Two Way Communication Survey". The survey has been sent to all IFCC National Representatives of the Full and Affiliate Members (98 in total). Only 41 responses were received, 19 from EFLM region, 7 from APFCB, 7 from COLABIOCLI, 4 from AFCC and AFCB. 82% of the members have a website which provides a link to the IFCC website; 11% are connected to IFCC via Facebook or LinkedIn; 45% have a newsletter published 1 to 4 times per year; 1% are aware of the IFCC Handbook; 76% read, almost regularly, the IFCC news and 60% the eJIFCC; 99% had occasion to contact the IFCC Office and 100% were satisfied. The IFCC Office will seek to increase the response rate.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.2 SD Committees

8.2.6 C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

EB endorsed the appointment of Antonin Jabor (CZ) as a new member of C-NPU.

8.2.11 C-Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)

EB awaits the nominations for a new member of C-MD

8.2.23 C-Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM)

EB awaits the nominations for three new members of C-TLM

8.3 SD Working Groups

8.3.51 WG on Commutability (WG-C)

EB agree to the establishment of this WG with Greg Miller (US) as Chair. EB agreed that Greg Miller should represent IFCC at the WHO ECBS consultation meeting on Commutability. BG suggested that Young Scientists should nominate a corresponding member for this WG.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.4 Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme

The approved applications for 2013 include: Zambia (Jocelyn Hicks, Donald Young, Rajiv Erasmus), Zimbabwe (Jocelyn Hicks, Donald Young, Rajiv Erasmus), Algeria (Graham Beastall), Norway (Wytze Osterhuis), South Africa (Jocelyn Hicks, Donald Young, Rajiv Erasmus, Tahir Pillay). Others applications are: Guatemala (Daniel Mazziotta), Jordan (Bernard Gouget, Maurizio Ferrari), Poland (Howard Morris), Iran (to be established).

10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.2 Committees

10.2.1 Committee for Public Relations (C-PR)

EB agreed with the recommendation of the CPD-EC that Prof. Zemlin (South Africa) be appointed to the C-PR for his first term 2013-2015 and that Drs Spalvieri (Argentina) and Psarra (Greece) be appointed for their first terms 2014-2016.

10.3 Working Groups

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

EB received the second report on progress with the Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry with the list of programs (n.20) and contents (38 topics covered and 40 interviewees). The audience in the first 17 programs was 7,275 listeners. EB will solicit Corporate Members, which have a particular attention to South America, to sustain the project.

EB noted the suggestion that WG-IANT and the Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry should be consolidated into a new CPD Committee and is waiting for a formal proposal.

10.9.2 IFCC Booth

EB approved the arrangements for the IFCC booth at the AACC congress in Houston and GB will ask to Elsevier if they are interested in collaboration.

10.40 Other business

Official Journal of IFCC

EB received the signed agreement between IFCC and Elsevier and noted that a signing ceremony in Milan has been suggested for public relations purposes.

EB discussed the letter of complaint from SiBioC. GB will respond to SiBioC complaint by showing a summary of the key decision points from CPD following the selection process.

'Labs Are Vital TM' Transition

EB discussed an update report on progress with this project. This is a project specific for laboratory professionals. Abbott suggested to do a smoothly transition Labs Are Vital program from sole Abbott ownership into community hands with Abbott support (IFCC, WASPaLM, ASCP, IFBLS, and other additional existing regional partners). Much progress has been made and probably a meeting or teleconference will be held at EuroMedLab in Milan.

11.0 IFCC Awards

11.01 IFCC Awards Committee

EB received an update on confirmed sponsorship for the 2014 IFCC Awards:

Confirmed: IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (Sponsored by Beckman Coulter in 2011) and IFCC-Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service (Sponsored by Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in 2011), IFCC-Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine (Currently sponsored by NIST and CLSI), IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (to be sponsored by Unilabs).

Probably confirmed: IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education (Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics in 2011), IFCC-Abbott Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics (Currently sponsored by Abbott Molecular Diagnostics), IFCC Young Investigator Award (Sponsored by Roche Diagnostics in 2011).

13.0 Special Projects and Task Forces

13.01.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-Ethics)

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-Ethics and discussed the proposal that IFCC should have a Code of Practice for working with its Corporate members. As a model the EB discussed the AACC Policy on relationship with Industry. Some points have to be changed considering the global dimension of IFCC. GB and TB will work on and will submit a draft document for IFCC in the next EB meeting in Milan. EB agreed with the suggestion that eJIFCC should adopt COPE and GB will contact Elsevier to discuss how IFCC can support and promote COPE.

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

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-PLM and noted progress with the ICPLM as a satellite meeting to IFCC WorldLab 2014 in Istanbul.

13.01.03 Task Force on Pharmacogenetics (TF-PG)

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-PG and noted that the 3rd congress of the European society of Predictive Medicine will take place in Riolo Terme, Italy on March 9-10 2013.

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

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-CKD and noted a proposal from Dave Seccombe of TF-CKD for a joint project with IFCC.

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

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-HbA1c.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

EB received the Strategic Plan 2013-2015 for TF-YS. EB highly appreciated the activities of the TF and congratulated with the Chair (Damien Gruson) for the excellent document presented to the EB. EB noted the high number of nominations for a vacancies on TF-YS and endorsed the composition of TF-YS : Gabriel Ko (FR) Chair, Pradeep Dabla (IN), Belen Imperiale (AR), Danni Li (US), Lara Popoola (NG), Miljan Savkovic (SRB).

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

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-CB and noted the excellent progress.

13.01.08 Task Force on POCT (TF-POCT)

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-POCT.

TF-POCT oversees two WG: 'Quality specifications for glucose POCT' (WG POCT) transferred from SD and the new TF-WG 'How should glucose meters be evaluated for critical care?' (Chair Cynthia Bowman). The latter WG received 21 applications, EB agreed that it is reasonable to accept all that can make contribution. Moreover the TF-POCT is contacting EFLM, AACC, AACB, CLSI leading to the suggestion that a group of international POCT project leads should be established to share experiences. A teleconference between those organizations will be scheduled early in 2013.

The TF-POCT is planning a satellite meeting at the IFCC WorldLab 2014 in Istanbul.

13.01.09 Task Force on the Impact of Laboratory Medicine on Clinical Management and Outcomes (TF-ICO)

EB received the annual report for 2012 from TF-ICO and noted that the TF will contribute to the EB symposium at WorldLab 2014 Istanbul.

13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

13.02.01 Professional Scientific Exchange Programmes (PSEP)

EB noted that reports were received from all PSEPs supported during 2012 and that two PSEP have been approved so far during 2013 from Egypt (Hosting Lab., Vanessa Steenkamp, Univ. Of Pretoria, South Africa) and from Spain (Hosting Lab. Eleftherios P. Diamandis, ACDC Lab. Mount Sinai, Toronto, Canada).

13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

EB received reports from the 21 participants at the General Conference who received Roche travel scholarships. All of them were satisfied with the presentations and workshops and appreciated the social events of the GC. For all the participants the GC has been a great opportunity to know the great family of IFCC.

14.0 IFCC Statutes and Rules

EB discussed a document presented by GB on methods for promoting the merits of extended IFCC membership (change of the rule 4.1.1 which restricts IFCC Full members to one national society per country or geographical area). There are many reasons to make changes: the growing global community of Lab. Medicine, the converging technology and common standards across disciplines of Lab. Medicine, the greater influence with global organizations such as WHO, the benefits to Corporate Members, the growing role of the Lab. Medicine in patient outcomes, the economies of scale. GB and HM will produce a high quality leaflet that can be distributed in electronic form to IFCC Full Members ahead of the Milan Congress. Full Members will discuss it informally with any member of the EB in the three Regional Congresses (Milan, Bali and Lima) and during the AACCCongress.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.3 Nominations Committee

EB noted a change of membership for the IFCC Nominations Committee for 2012-2014: Ana Letitia Maselli instead of Stella Raymondo.