

Summary

120th Meeting Executive Board
Milan, Italy, May 17-19, 2013

Minutes

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| 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) Dr. T Brinkmann (TB) | President Past President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Member Member Member Corporate Representative |
| In attendance: | Ms P Bramati (PB) | IFCC Office |

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

The “Sociedad Boliviana de Bioquímica Clínica - SBCC” has been approved as a full member of the IFCC. IFCC has now 87 Full members in its membership. The deadline for vote the application of the “Colegio Mexicano de Ciencias de Laboratorio Clínico, A.C.” is the end of June.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.2 Applications for Corporate Membership were approved as follows: Instrumentation Laboratory (3.01.87) and “Shanghai Zhicheng Biological Technology Co., Ltd”. (3.01.88)
Already approved new CM in 2013: Elga Labwater, PPD Inc.

4.0 Affiliate Members

4.2 EB noted that the Palestine Medical Technology Association not yet applied to become Full Member. An enquiry had been received on behalf of a new society in Egypt: The Egyptian Society of Pathological Biochemistry and Laboratory of Blood Research.

5.0 Regional Organisations

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

EB noted the publication of the excellent APFCB Newsletter for 2012.

EB noted that GB attended national society meetings in Korea and China and that HM attended the national society meeting in China: both agree that China is a very dynamic and competitive Society in APFCB.

The Vietnam Society is 50 yrs old; the IFCC will prepare an award plaque.

Travel scholarship for the APFCB in Bali: 2 APFCB, 1 APFCB-Abbot, 5 APFCB-Siemens.

5.02 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

EB received the notes from the joint IFCC-COLABIOCLI meeting held in Buenos Aires made by Maria Alejandra Arias representative of Argentina to IFCC. The IFCC-COLABIOCLI agreement discussed in the joint meeting should be signed soon.

Two joint IFCC-COLABIOCLI projects were presented during the meeting and reported in the notes: “Traceability in Clinical Laboratory” (Daniel Mazziotta) and “Salud Sexual Y Reproductiva-Disfunción Vaginal” (Roberto Garcia).

The “Traceability in Clinical Laboratory” is a long term project because a high variation exists between laboratories in the Latin America region. The establishment of metrology laboratories to set up reference methods and prepare reference material is needed. Daniel Mazziotta has been invited to the meeting of the IFCC Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM, SD, Chair L Siekmann) at the EuroMedLab in Milan. The IFCC C-TLM should promote education on analytical quality in all countries (through their respective EQUAS, when exist) and the needed tools to control analytical procedures.

The project “Salud Sexual Y Reproductiva-Disfunción Vaginal” can be considered in “Woman’s Health” which is one of the priority areas for WHO (GPW 2012); nevertheless it should be focused on a specific point otherwise it is difficult to support. An IFCC WG could provide training courses and education (e-learning by CPD and EMD) and scientific support, but the terms of reference have to be specified together with the proponent (R. Garcia). TB suggests that UniLabs might be involved with an exchange Programme.

The COC for the COLABIOCLI 2013 Congress is working very well (President Antonio Maiolo, Perú) (UT).

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

This was the first complete joint meeting between the EB of EFLM and IFCC and was a great opportunity to improve relationships and harmonize projects and activities. All the members were present except JH of the IFCC EB. Many issues were discussed:

EuroMedLab: EFLM suggested that NSs should be more aware of bidding process, and more information is needed about the criteria for ranking the applications. Countries where the attendance would not be so numerous are at a disadvantage unless financial support is available.

A joint Committee will look at the Guidelines for EuroMedLab Congresses to improve the promotion and the ethics in the bidding process and in the choice of the venue before the time to invite NSs to bid to host EuroMedLab 2019.

AACC Harmonization Project: both IFCC and EFLM were invited for financial support to the project, but neither can sustain the annual sum to be a Council member. Nonetheless, IFCC and EFLM can participate in specific items of the Harmonization Project through their SD; they can become Strategic Partners; and they can nominate individuals to serve on the Harmonization Oversight Group.

Education and training: EFLM is moving towards high quality education and accreditation of professionals. At the same time IFCC is increasing support to developing Countries. In both cases IFCC and EFLM can work together to improve distance learning and to coordinate the contribution from webinars, teleconferences and learning programmes. The target is to build a sort of library for distance learning and even CCA can contribute to this project. Some models already exist (e.g. AACC Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council).

Quality and Regulation: IFCC and EFLM agree that it is critical for the IVD Companies to have standardization and/or harmonization of methods to improve patient safety. However, even small changes to methods are expensive for companies because they have to follow different regulatory processes in different Countries. The main concern about method quality is with POCT. EFLM and IFCC can collaborate with the companies in these items.

EFLM issues: EFLM acknowledged the IFCC response to the issues raised by the EFLM President in Kuala Lumpur. Issues relating to the collection of fees and membership of the IFCC Executive Board are constitutional and would require Council to agree changes. IFCC supports a more formal link between the Executive Committees of the Regional Federations and the IFCC Executive Board and is willing to re-visit this topic if there is strong support from Europe.

IFCC issue: The IFCC showed the pamphlet "Shaping the future of Laboratory Medicine" to the EFLM Board; the EFLM will discuss the proposal for changes during the General Assembly (EuroMedLab May, 19th).

Update of IFCC-EFLM Agreement: EFLM and IFCC agreed to update their formal agreement as the initial three year period is approaching.

5.05 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

President Pr Layachi CHABRAOUI (MO), Pr A HEDHILI, chair of the AFCB scientific committee, Dr Osama NAJJAR(PA); BG, IFCC liaison.

EB noted that the IFCC-AFCB agreement has not yet been completed, BG will seek to speed up the agreement during EML 2013 in Milano or in Casablanca during the SMCC congress (June 6-8 2013). GB at BG attended national society meetings in Jordan (March 22-26) and Algeria. (April 21-24). The next AFBC EB Meeting will be held in Khartoum (next September 2013), AFCB will organize a workshop on stem cells.

5.06 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

EB received the report from VS and acknowledged the great activity. Laboratory Quality Management workshops took place in Zimbabwe and Zambia and a report on the workshop in Zimbabwe was submitted to IFCC e-news. The 3rd congress of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry will be held in conjunction with the Laboratory Medicine Congress at the Cape Town Convention Centre, South Africa, 29 – 31 July 2013. This congress will be preceded by a Course in Laboratory Quality Management as well as a Beginner's Course in Molecular Diagnostics. The congress will be followed by a course on Multivariate Analysis for EBLM.

5.1 American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC)

EB noted further communication with AACC regarding the International Harmonization Consortium; GB wrote to the incoming Executive Vice President of AACC (Janet Kreizman) and received a positive reply. The opportunity to exchange further information will occur at the AACC Annual Meeting (Houston July 28th-August 1st). Gary Myers continues to act as the AACC liaison with IFCC.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

EB noted that the WHO EB re-admitted the IFCC into official relations with WHO as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). The basis of an official relationship is a mutually agreed three year plan for collaboration, the results of which are reviewed by the WHO EB once every three years. The agreed activities are intended to contribute to the achievement of some issues on the *WHO strategic objective 11: "to ensure improved access, quality and use of medical products and technologies"*.

1) IFCC will work with WHO to publish a revision of the 2003 WHO booklet entitled 'Laboratory diagnosis and monitoring of diabetes mellitus';

2) IFCC will work with WHO to conduct and publish a survey (in collaboration with CMs) of the range of current clinical biochemistry and haematology analytical systems that are available for resource limited settings. The work will include point of care testing systems.

3) IFCC will work together with WHO in the selection of scientific and clinical topics and speakers at IFCC congresses including the IFCC WorldLab and specialized conferences on specific clinical topics.

EB noted that the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization held a consultation meeting on Commutability in April 2013 with G Miller representing IFCC.

6.2 Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)

EB noted that GB attended a CLSI project meeting on Critical Result Reporting.

6.4 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

EB noted the communication sent by GB to the President of IUPAC to seek commitment from IUPAC to the collaboration between NPU and IHTSDO to ensure the alignment of NPU with the SNOMED CT clinical terminology, which operates under the direction of IHTSDO.

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

EB noted a very active collaboration with WASPaLM regarding the transition of 'Labs are Vital' (see 10.40) and within TF-CKD Paper (see 13.01.04).

6.23 International Standards Organisation (ISO)

EB received the Summary Minutes from the meeting of the ISO TC 212 WG 2 on Reference Systems held in Atlanta in January 2013.

6.38 International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)

EB received the Minutes of a meeting held with IHTSDO in April 2013 to discuss collaboration on aligning the NPU terminology with SNOMED CT (see 8.2,6).

6.22.1 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

EB received the Minutes of the JCTLM Executive Committee meeting held in December 2012 and noted that JCTLM will hold a meeting with stakeholders in December 2013.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.20 Membership

EB noted that T Ozben has agreed to continue as Chair of C-CC until the end of 2014 to enable her to support the delivery of WorldLab 2014 Istanbul. EB approved the C-CC recommendation that J Wiesenberg (CA) should be the successor to T Ozben as Chair of C-CC. The C-CC has advertised for one new member with effect from January 2014.

7.2 IFCC WorldLab Congresses

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

EB noted that the scientific programme is good and the congress will receive significant publicity at EuroMedLab Milan, However, MZ continues to experience some difficulty in selling exhibition space for the congress.

7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017

The organization is moving on. Rajiv Erasmus is Chair of the COC. (VS).

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020

EB noted that invitations to bid for this congress have been issued with a closing date of 15 October 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>)

EB noted the final programme for the congress and the timing of the EB meeting (25-27 October).

7.3.2.20 EuroMedLab Milano 2013 (19-23 May 2013 www.milan2013.org)

EB noted the high level of registrants for this congress (almost 4.500) and the efficiency in the organization of the EuroMedLab.

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab Paris 2015

The first announcement will be done during the EuroMedLab in Milan with the distribution of the informative pamphlet at the *Paris 2015* booth.

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab 2017

EB noted that three bids to host EuroMedLab 2017 have been received – Athens, Barcelona and Prague. C-CC and EFLM have evaluated the three bids and provided an advisory report. Athens was chosen during the EFLM General Assembly in Milano on 19 May.

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. The final programme is available at <http://colabiocli-lima2013.org>. 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

EB received a report from VS on plans for the next AFCC congress, which will be held in South Africa in July 2013 (see 5.06).

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

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

EB noted that SD has commenced planning for this conference. The theme of the conference will be 'Women's Health'. It is possible that WHO will contribute a speaker on the global priority attached to 'Women's Health' (see 6.1; *item 3 of the IFCC-WHO agreement*).

7.4.6 Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD) Conference Toronto, 2014

EB agreed to support the project for a conference in Toronto together with the CSCC. The title could be: "Linking the Clinic with the laboratory: IFCC Conference on Neurodegenerative diseases". The dates for the conference have been re-arranged for October 24/25 2014.

The outline programme is almost ready. Financial support has not been forthcoming from OCD.

7.4.9 IFCC General Conference

EB discussed the timing (spring 2016) and possible venue (Miami or Balkan area) for the next General Conference. Considering the organization, probably more breaks are needed in

comparison with KL to allow participants to interact more actively as well as more interactive sessions with TFs and WGs. An outline programme will be made (JH, BG, VS, TB).

7.4.10 IFCC Abbott 'Turning Science into Caring' Conference

EB received a report from HM on plans for the 2013 TSIC conference. Dates: 22-24 September; venue: Taipei/Taiwan. The scientific programme is ready. The topics are a global view to the future of the Laboratory Medicine and the relationship between Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care.

7.4.11 Bio-Rad Quality Conference in Latin America

EB noted that discussions with Bio-Rad continue to explore formalising its regular Quality meeting in Latin America with IFCC (a possible candidate is Mexico).

7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices

EB noted that the list of congresses awarded IFCC auspices is updated and published on the IFCC website. EB noted with enthusiasm that a linkage between IFCC and OCD has been established to provide training towards laboratory accreditation in India ("Quality practices in the healthcare segment for Laboratory Technologists).

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.2 SD Committees

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

EB discussed the IFCC position in relation to the proposed collaboration between NPU and IHTSDO (see 6.4).

8.2.11 C-Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)

EB noted the appointment of D Payne (US) as the new Chair of C-MD and the appointment of the following new members of C-MD: CA Kwan (HK), C Mamotte (AU), A-P Nejad (DE), G. Russomando (PY).

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

EB noted the appointment of L Siekmann (DE) as the new Chair of C-TLM and the appointment of the following new members of C-TLM: L Mackay (AU), D Clark (US).

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.4 Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme

EB noted the list of approved VLP for 2013: The hosts are: Yousef Bילו (Jordan), Hilda Matarira (Zimbabwe), Hilary Lumano (Zambia), Ana Leticia de Maselli (Guatemala), Smail Belazzoug (Algeria), Ann Helen Kristoffersen (Norway), Rajiv Erasmus (South Africa), Grazyna Sypniewska (Poland), Arias Maria Alejandra (Argentina).

9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

A brainstorming meeting will be held in Milan 21 May to consider how IFCC can adopt a more proactive role for DQCML in supporting the development of quality in laboratory medicine in emerging nations. In particular the workshop will examine the WHO-Afro stepwise approach to laboratory accreditation and determine how DQCML and EMD may align with this programme.

9.4.40 Possible IFCC Quality Assessment Scheme

A meeting will be held in Milan to consider the practical details associated with the introduction of an EQA Scheme into Zambia. The project is being organised as a joint project with Randox with Renze Bais as the IFCC lead.

10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.2 Committees

10.3 Working Groups

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

From the beginning of the radio program to February 27th, 2013, "El Microscopio" has had: 40 programs (70 minutes per program). 65 Interviewees, 38 topics covered, 35 pieces of news about history, 21 correspondents in Ibero America, 757 listeners per program. The audience has been: 28,755 listeners in the first 38 programs, more than 11,000 followers in Facebook. A survey has been done considering the visitors per country, the timing, the liking of the topics and even the knowledge of the IFCC activities. Only 30% of the interviewed knew of IFCC activities. GB wrote to CMs to draw attention to "El Microscopio" to find additional resources. Montserrat Blanes (Chair WG-IANT) submitted a formal request to consolidate the WG-IANT and the Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry into a new CPD Committee. After careful consideration EB felt unable to support the request because it could compromise current collaboration with COLABIOCLI.

10.9.2 IFCC Booth

EB noted the arrangements for the IFCC booth at the AACC congress in Houston. Silvia Cattaneo will manage the IFCC booth. Elsevier has agreed to contribute 2500 Eur to the cost of furnishing the booth in return for the opportunity to promote CCA.

10.40 Other business

Official Journal of IFCC

EB noted the response from GB to the letter of complaint from SIBioC and that the signing ceremony with Elsevier will now take place on the IFCC booth in Houston.

'Labs Are Vital™' Transition

The MoU is almost ready, Abbott transferred the intellectual property right to the parties involved in the consortium (ASCP, WASPaLM, IFCC, IFBLS). The CPD has appointed E Jacobs to be the IFCC lead for 'Labs Are Vital'. A committee meeting will be held in Milan on May 20. However, there will not be a 'Labs are Vital' booth in the exhibition because the organisers refused the request for a complimentary booth.

IFCC Historian

EB noted that Prof P Wilding will visit the IFCC Office on Monday 20 May.

11.0 IFCC Awards

11.01 IFCC Awards Committee

The call for nomination will be sent soon describing the IFCC Awards for Istanbul:

IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award, sponsored by Beckman Coulter in 2011 (agreed); *IFCC-Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service*, sponsored by Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in 2011 (agreed); *IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education*, sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics in 2011 (probably agreed); *IFCC-Abbott Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics*, currently sponsored by Abbott Molecular Diagnostics (probably agreed); *IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care*, sponsored by UniLabs (agreed); *IFCC-Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine*, currently sponsored by NIST and CLSI (agreed); *IFCC Young Investigator Award*, sponsored by Roche Diagnostics in 2011 (presently not agreed). The nomination deadline should be November, the electronic approval should be finished in December and the notification should be done in February 2014.

13.0 Special Projects and Task Forces

13.01.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-Ethics)

EB noted the adoption of a code of practice for IFCC relationship with industry, which has been published on the IFCC website. Elsevier will work with IFCC to encourage Members to adhere to the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (GB).

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

The TF-CKD has recently surveyed IFCC CM for data on the traceability of their assays for creatinine, cystatin c and urine albumin and is considering the implications of a recommendation in favour of the adoption of CKD-EPI 2009 formula as the preferred equation for estimating GFR. EB noted that this joint IFCC-WASPaLM TF will meet in Milan.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

EB confirmed the membership of the new TF: Gabriel Ko (FR) Chair, Pradeep Dabla (IN), Belen Imperiale (AR), Danni Li (US), Lara Popoola (NG), Miljan Savkovic (SRB). Damien Gruson will act as a Consultant for the TF, BG as EB liaison.

13.01.08 Task Force on POCT (TF-POCT)

EB received the outline programme for the satellite meeting to IFCC WorldLab 2014 in Istanbul. Sponsorship for this satellite conference is progressing well (ALERE, US California, is interested even if it is not an IFCC-CM). A rotating Industry Session is expected in which delegates will rotate through industry displays for live demonstrations.

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

The TF will meet in Milan and will discuss the final draft of the initial publication to be submitted to Clinical Chemistry.

13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

EB received a report summarising the PSEP and PMEP approved during 2012: Kenneth Kiprouto (Kenya); Maria Avellaneda Diaz (Spain), Victor Manolov (Bulgaria), Layton Tovar Cristian (Colombia), Antoine Sadiki Kishabongo (Congo). Three projects have been approved in 2013: Mohamed Masoud Khaled (Egypt); Josep Rossello (Spain); Bramwei Wafula (Kenya)

13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

EB received a report summarising the IFCC-Roche scholarships awarded for EuroMedLab: Chittamma Anchalee (Thailand), Das Saswati (India), Dayanath Bolonghoge (Sri Lanka), Iqbal Sahar (Pakistan), Hilary Lumano (Zambia), Mansour Neda Issa (Jordan), Osegbe Ifeyinwa Dorothy (Nigeria) and Widodo Joko (Indonesia).

A reminder call for nominations for scholarships for Bali and Lima will be sent out by the Office because of the small number of application presently received (Bali 9; Lima no application).

14.0 IFCC Statutes and Rules

EB discussed the amendments of the IFCC Statutes and Rules in order to allow the electronic election of the next Executive Board. EB approved the amendments and the deadline to produce the final version of the document is June 2013 (GB). The document will be displayed in <http://www.ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/statutes-and-rules/> site.

Timetable for elections for the next Executive Board: first ballot in November 2013, second ballot in January 2014.

The Nominations Committee will solicit bids for the position of President Elect soon after Istanbul.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.3 Nominations Committee

EB noted the call for nominations for the 2015-17 Executive Board positions of: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members x 3, and Corporate Member Representative.

The closing date for nominations is August 31 2013.