

THE TWENTY SECOND TRIENNIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
Sunday 22nd June 2014, commencing at 08.45h
Hamidiye 2, Istanbul Congress Center, Istanbul, Turkey

ATTENDANCE:

The Council Meeting was attended by 103 people, including representatives from 50 IFCC Full Member Societies

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The IFCC Past President, Professor Jocelyn Hicks, welcomed representatives of IFCC Full Members, Corporate Members, Affiliate Members as well as all those present in the Council Meeting. The IFCC Secretary then took the Chair for the business of Council.

Minutes of 21st Council, Berlin, Germany, 2011

The Council had previously approved these Minutes ([link](#))

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr Graham Beastall gave the President's report of IFCC activities during the past three years ([Appendix 1 link](#)). He highlighted:

- An increase of Full Member from 85 to 89 since the last Council
- An increase of Affiliate Members from 5 to 10
- An increase of Corporate Members from 44 to 52
- The five Regional Federations, four of which have formal agreements with IFCC
- The structure and organization of IFCC, including the current Executive Board
- The IFCC Office and its staff team in Milan
- Excellent progress against the 26 action points in the strategic plan
- The consultation on 'Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine'
- The roles of the IFCC Task Forces and Special Projects
- International collaboration with other global organizations
- Proposal to launch the Foundation for Emerging Nations
- Opportunities and challenges for IFCC in the next three years

Dr Beastall concluded his report by thanking the 'family of IFCC' for their support during a three year period of achievement and progress.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr Bernard Gouget gave the Treasurer's report for the past three years ([Appendix 2 link](#)). He highlighted:

- The strategic aims of his term as Treasurer:
 - Improve efficiency in day to day accounting records
 - Building a realistic budget that reflects final implementation
 - Improving IFCC financial reserves
- Audited annual accounts for the years ending 2011, 2012 and 2013 are available from the IFCC Office

Dr Gouget explained the income and expenditure account for 2013 in some detail:

- Income 1,666,797 CHF; Expenditure 1,224,299 CHF; Surplus 442,498 CHF
- Sources of income (EuroMedLab Milan 2013 contributed 46.8% of income)
- Full and Affiliate Member dues (12% of income), highlighting outstanding dues
- Corporate Member dues (18.6% of income), highlighting outstanding dues
- Sources of expenditure across all IFCC operations

Dr Gouget observed that the budget for the year 2014 projected a loss of 280,484 CHF but steps were being taken to collect outstanding dues and contain expenditure

Dr Gouget addressed the funds held by IFCC:

- Operational account with Credit Suisse 1,666,204 CHF at 17 June 2014
- Investment account with LGT 2,835,224 € at 11 June 2014

Dr Gouget explained how active collaboration with LGT had resulted in a substantial recovery in the IFCC investment portfolio following the global financial crisis. During the three years since 2011 there had been a gain in investments of 853,894 €

Dr Gouget concluded his report by thanking Paola Bramati in the IFCC Office and John Gates, the IFCC auditor

4. REMOVAL OF IFCC MEMBERS

The Treasurer Dr. B Gouget informed the Council meeting that three IFCC Full Members were removed from membership during the past three years for non-payment of dues.

5. AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Howard Morris gave a report on the IFCC Awards for 2012-2014.. He announced the following award winners:

- IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award.(sponsored by Beckmann Coulter) Professor Matthew McQueen, Canada
- IFCC Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Services (sponsored by Siemens). Doctor Robert Dufour, USA
- IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education (sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics). Doctor Carl Burtis, USA
- IFCC Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics (sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics). Doctor Francis Barany, USA
- IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (sponsored by Unilabs). Professor Mario Plebani, Italy
- IFCC-Robert Shaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine (co-sponsored by NIST and CLSI) Professor Greg Miller, USA
- IFCC Young Investigator Award (sponsored by IFCC) Dr Geoffrey Baird, USA

Professor Morris concluded by thanking the members of the IFCC Awards Committee

6. CORPORATE MEMBERS' REPORT

The Corporate Member's report was delivered by Dr Rolf Hinzmann on behalf of Dr Thomas Brinkmann ([Appendix 3 link](#)). He highlighted

- The Corporate Representatives on The Executive Board and the Division
- Election of the next Corporate Member Representative on the Executive Board
- Corporate Member involvement in congress organising committees
- The sequence of Corporate Member meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Current Corporate Members and changes since 2011
- Overview of Corporate Member subscriptions to IFCC
- IFCC Roche Bergmeyer Conferences
- IFCC ESCCA Beckman Coulter Flow Cytometry Courses
- IFCC Siemens Conference on Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Disease

Coffee break

7. SCIENTIFIC DIVISION REPORT

Professor Ian Young reported on behalf of the Scientific Division ([Appendix 4 link](#)). He highlighted:

- Membership of Scientific Division
- Mission and objectives of Scientific Division
- The importance of partnership working for the Scientific Division
- The structure and working of the Scientific Division
- Key achievements of the Scientific Division
 - Involves >150 expert scientists from around the world
 - Scientific Division symposia at most major international meetings
 - Bergmeyer conferences on Vitamin D and Women's Health
 - Many key publications in the scientific literature
- The six Scientific Division Committees and their work plans
 - Highlighting the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits
 - Highlighting the Committee for Standardisation of Thyroid Function Tests
- The twelve Scientific Division Working Groups and their work plans
 - Highlighting the Working Group on Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin
 - Highlighting the Working Group on Standardisation of Troponin I
- The mechanism for proposing new projects for the Scientific Division
- Opportunities for becoming involved in the work of the Scientific Division

Professor Young concluded by thanking all involved in the work of the Scientific Division

8. EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION REPORT

Professor Maurizio Ferrari reported on behalf of the Education and Management Division ([Appendix 5 link](#)). He highlighted:

- Mission statement for the Education and Management Division
- Structure and membership of Education and Management Division
- The achievements of the five Education and Management Division Committees
 - Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum
 - Analytical Quality
 - Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine
 - Clinical Laboratory Management
 - Distance Learning
- The achievements of the two Education and Management Division Working Groups
 - Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety

- Flow Cytometry
 - The continuing success of the IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme
 - The Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories Programme
- Professor Ferrari concluded by thanking all involved in the work of the Education and Management Division

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION REPORT

Professor Khosrow Adeli reported on behalf of the Communication and Publications Division ([Appendix 6 link](#)). He highlighted:

- Membership of the Communications and Publications Division
- Strategic plan of the Division
- Developments with the IFCC journal eJIFCC
- Developments with the IFCC eNewsletter
- Activities of the Committee for Public Relations
- Activities of the Committee for Internet and e-Learning
- Improvements to the IFCC website
- Progress towards an IFCC eAcademy
- The use of Facebook and Linked-In for IFCC
- Symposia provided by the Division at several conferences
- IFCC involvement in the Labs Are Vital programme
- Other activities of the Division

Professor Adeli concluded by thanking all involved in the work of the Communications and Publications Division

10. IFCC STATUTES

Professor Sergio Bernardini explained that the decisions taken by the previous Council Meeting in Berlin had required changes to the IFCC Statutes. These had been made in discussion with the IFCC lawyers. The amended Statutes and Rules (dated 30 June 2013) had been circulated with the Council papers and were approved by Council.

11. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2015-2017

Dr Graham Beastall reported that electronic voting had been used for the first time to elect the Officers and Members of the IFCC Executive Board for 2015-2017. The elections had been conducted in line with the amended Statutes by an independent election organization. A high turnout of Full Members (>80%) voted. The results were:

- President Maurizio Ferrari (IT)
- Secretary Sergio Bernardini (IT)
- Treasurer Tomris Ozben (TR)
- Member Vanessa Steenkamp (ZA)
- Member Rosa Sierra Amor (MX)
- Member Daniel Mazziotta (AR)

The Corporate Member Representative was elected by the Corporate Members of IFCC:

- Rolf Hinzmann (Roche Diagnostics)

Dr Beastall indicated that in line with the amended Statutes he would serve as Past President for two years 2015-2016

Council welcomed the new Executive Board with acclamation.

12. VENUE FOR IFCC WORLTLAB 2020

Dr Graham Beastall reported that seven bids had been received to host IFCC WorldLab 2020. These had been evaluated in detail by the Committee for Congresses and Conferences. The Executive Board endorsed their recommendation. Dr Beastall announced that the venue for IFCC WorldLab 2020 would be Seoul, Korea. Council greeted the announcement with acclamation.

13. MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

Dr Graham Beastall introduced this agenda item and facilitated the debate. IFCC had received two linked Motions proposing that the composition of future Executive Boards should change to include representatives from the IFCC Regional Federations. The two Motions had been circulated in full ahead of the Council meeting.

The first Motion was proposed by Peter Vervaart (AU) and seconded by Endang Hoyaranda (ID). It proposed:

1. "That each IFCC Regional Federation has at least one representative on all future Executive Boards
2. That the Regional Federation representative is nominated by and elected from the IFCC Full Members of the relevant Regional Federation"

The second Motion was proposed by Ferruccio Ceriotti (IT) and seconded by Ana-Maria Simundic (HR). It proposed:

1. "We recommend a modification of the second part of the first Motion indicating the Regional Federation President as representative of the Regional Federation"

Council debated the two Motions in tandem. The following points were made:

- Any changes would take effect in the Executive Board elected to serve from 2018-2020
- Any changes would necessitate amendment to the IFCC Statutes and Rules, which would require formal approval in advance of any elections
- Regional representatives on the Executive Board would be in place of and not in addition to the three Members elected by all Full Members
- The primary aim of both Motions is to improve the strategic and operational links between IFCC and its Regional Federations
- Effective communication between the IFCC Executive Board and the Regional Federation Executive Board is essential and this is the basis of the second Motion
- Any Regional representative will be expected to serve a full three year term on the IFCC Executive Board.
- Some IFCC Full Members of IFCC are not currently in a Regional Federation. Some IFCC Full Members belong to two Regional Federations. These issues would need to be addressed

Dr Beastall explained that since IFCC had now adopted electronic voting both Motions would be submitted as a formal ballot to all IFCC Full Members. The informal view of those attending Council was:

- Strong support for the principle of Regional representation on the IFCC Executive Board
- Support for the election of Regional representatives by the IFCC Full Members in the Regional Federation
- Divided opinion on the Regional Federation President as the representative of the Regional Federation

Dr Beastall thanked Council for an excellent discussion, which has major implications for the future of IFCC.

Lunch break

14. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

Dr Graham Beastall introduced this agenda item and facilitated the debate. He explained that the Executive Board had published a consultation paper in May 2013 to stimulate a one year discussion within and between IFCC Member societies and companies on the future of laboratory medicine. This consultation had generated extensive interest, which would culminate in the Council debate.

Dr Beastall presented a Powerpoint presentation. ([Appendix 7, link](#)). This presentation had been published in IFCC e-News and circulated in advance to all IFCC Members. The presentation addressed the following:

- The central role of laboratory medicine to changing global healthcare
- Reviews of the shape and delivery of laboratory medicine in many countries
- Drivers for change in laboratory medicine
- Divisions in laboratory medicine
- 'Shaping the future of laboratory medicine'
 - At national and regional level
 - Opportunities for IFCC
- IFCC proposals for change

Following this introduction there were five short presentations to illustrate good practice in looking towards the future of laboratory medicine:

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| • Standardisation linked to traceability | Lothar Siekmann (DE) |
| • The Asian Pacific vision | Leslie Lai (MY) |
| • Professional collaboration in Romania | Camelia Grigore (RO) |
| • UK vision and achievements | Eric Kilpatrick (UK) |
| • AACC Strategic Plan for the future | Gary Myers (US) |

A structured, wide ranging debate ensued with contributions from many of the Council participants. The points discussed included:

- Drivers for change in laboratory medicine
 - Globalisation with impact on the need for harmonisation
 - Technological advance
 - Smarter working to improve both clinical and cost effectiveness
 - Integrated diagnostics as part of patient pathways
 - Adding value to a quality laboratory medicine service
- Divisions in laboratory medicine
 - Issue of identity arising from so many names for the profession
 - Tension between different professional staff grades
 - Reluctance to embrace new sub-specialties of laboratory medicine
 - Reluctance to recognise that more services will be delivered outside the lab
- Opportunities at national and regional level
 - Several examples of good practice within countries
 - Strategic planning in several countries and in Regional Federations
 - Recognition of the need for leadership and pro-activity at all levels
 - Concerns about rivalry between societies and professional groups
 - Concern about the low 'visibility' of laboratory medicine in healthcare
 - Need for evidence of the impact of laboratory medicine on clinical outcomes
- Opportunities for IFCC arising from removing the one Full Member per country statute
 - Increased membership and scope of laboratory medicine within IFCC
 - Increased influence with WHO and other global bodies
 - More global standardization and harmonization
 - More global practice standards and guidelines

- A more effective global voice for laboratory medicine
- Concern that this will be counterproductive at national level
- Concern about diluting the effectiveness of IFCC
- Concern about voting rights with more than one IFCC Member per country

In summarising the debate Dr Beastall thanked Council for a lively, high level discussion conducted in good humour. The essential contribution of laboratory medicine to future healthcare was not in doubt; the question was how to structure the profession and deliver services in the best interests of patients. The main learning points from the debate were:

- The drivers for change in laboratory medicine are common to most/all countries
- Laboratory medicine at national and international level is not as integrated as it should be for maximum patient benefit
- IFCC Member societies and companies should be more proactive in promoting the contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare, embracing change as opportunities present themselves
- Mixed views on whether IFCC should open up its membership by removing the 'one country, one Full Member statute'; the balance of opinion was against change

Dr Beastall encouraged all IFCC Members to continue the debate within their societies and companies, producing plans to help shape the future of laboratory medicine at local level. The IFCC Executive Board would reflect on the debate at its next meeting before announcing what steps would follow.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business notified at least one month in advance to the IFCC Secretary
No items had been notified to the IFCC Secretary.

16. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion

17. VOTE OF THANKS

Professor Howard Morris, IFCC Vice President, proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Executive Board to all those who had attended the Council Meeting. He explained that the active participation of so many people in the Council meeting was important in assuring good governance for IFCC. He expressed gratitude for the high level of debate under Agenda items 13 and 14. Professor Morris invited those present to assemble in Durban, South Africa in October 2017 on the occasion of the 23rd IFCC Council meeting.

. Professor Sergio Bernardini closed the meeting at 16.00h.

SIGNATURES

The above Minutes were approved on behalf of the IFCC Executive Board:

Graham Beastall
President

Sergio Bernardini
Secretary