



ACBI

Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland

...a brief history

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry in Ireland was founded in 1964. Its founding members were Dr PT Moore (Chairman, St James's Hospital), Miss I Buckley (Treasurer, National Maternity Hospital), Miss J Raftery (Committee member, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children), Dr D McGeeney (Committee, Mater Hospital) and Miss M Doolin (Secretary, St Vincent's Hospital). This group steered the fledgling organisation for two years until its official formation on 9th November 1966 with the addition of council members Dr I Farrell, Dr PN Leonard and Miss P Donnelly. At the second AGM in 1967, the organisation comprised 39 members, which has increased by more than three fold to the present day.

Within its first official year the council met 12 times with five general meetings! Amongst the organisation's objectives, which hold true today, were the following:

1. Promoting the advancement of Clinical Biochemistry
2. Teaching and Training of Scientific, Medical and Technical staff in Clinical Biochemistry
3. Fostering Research, Development and high Scientific Standards in Clinical Biochemistry
4. Maintaining and Improving standards of Advice, Interpretation and the Efficient Use of Clinical Biochemistry in Medical Care
5. Representing the profession of Clinical Biochemistry in Ireland both domestically and internationally and... to organise the 'social and other such functions' which promote the interests of the association!

In this regard, the first ACBI annual conference was held in the Marine Hotel Sutton in 1978. Annual scientific meetings have continued to the most recent 37th annual conference, held at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in November 2014, which marked 50 years since the ACBI was founded!

Since 2007, a medal has been awarded for the best poster presentation at the annual conference in memory of Ms Geraldine Roberts (1944-2006).

Since 1971 the ACBI has been a member society of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and is a member of the IFCC's "geographical" sub-groups FESCC (Forum of European Societies of Clinical Chemistry) and EC4 (European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry). The ACBI is a sponsoring society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (formerly European Journal of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry). The Association works closely on matters of common interest with its sister organizations the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (ACSLM) and the Faculty of Pathology of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland through joint committees such as the Steering Committee of the Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme (Laboratory Medicine), and the Joint Working Group on Accreditation of Irish Clinical Laboratories.

The ACBI logo incorporates Celtic symbols of knowledge and of healing, to represent science and medicine. It comprises an abstracted image of water to represent the other world well of wisdom, and the spring of healing, and also the cauldron of regeneration. Also depicted are the hazels of wisdom and inspiration. It was by eating the hazel nuts which fell into the well that the salmon of knowledge acquired its wisdom. The elements of the logo are grouped in threes to echo the triadic motif common in Celtic imagery. A further characteristic is the openness to interpretation at various levels of meaning.



Founder Members: P Moore, I Buckley, J Raftery, D McGeeney and M Doolin (ACBI, 1964)





Design concept and research:
Dr Alan Balfe
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Thus, the lower part echoes a common schematic used in biochemistry to represent molecules migrating in a matrix.

Further information on the ACBI, including links to useful websites and details of how to join the association, can be found at its website <http://www.acbi.ie/>. Activities within the region, including meeting reports from national and international events, updates on current topics and publications by association members can also be accessed through the ACBI newsletter.