

Summary

121st Meeting Executive Board Bali, Indonesia, October 26-27, 2013

Minutes

Members:	Dr. G Beastall (GB)	President
	Prof. J Hicks (JH)	Past President
	Prof. H Morris (HM)	Vice President
	Dr. B Gouget (BG)	Treasurer
	Prof. S Bernardini (SB)	Secretary
	Prof. L Kricka (LK)	Member
	Prof V Steenkamp (VS)	Member
	Dr. T Brinkmann (TB)	Corporate Representative
In attendance:	Ms P Bramati (PB)	IFCC Office

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.1 EB noted the approval of two new Full Members: “Sociedad Boliviana de Bioquímica Clínica - SBCC” and “Colegio Mexicano de Ciencias de Laboratorio Clínico, A.C.”

3.0 Corporate Members

3.1 EB noted the approval of two new Corporate Members: Shanghai Zhicheng Biological Technology Co.,Ltd (03.01.88) and Adx Neurosciences (3.01.89).

4.0 Affiliate Members

EB noted the active involvement of two recent Affiliate Members in IFCC activities: the “Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC)”, Mexico (4.1.12) and the “Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)” (4.1.11).

5.0 Regional Organisations

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

EB received the triennial report from the APFCB President Leslie Lai. A very impressive report has been presented showing the three years activities of the Education Committee (Chair: Prof Samuel Vasikaran, Australia), the Scientific Committee (Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara, Japan), the Laboratory Management Committee (Chair: Associate Prof Tony Badrick, Australia), the Communications Committee (Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma, India) and the Congress and Conferences Committee (Chair: Joseph Lopez, Malaysia). Moreover great progress has been made in the relationship with full and affiliate members as well as with Corporate members and other international laboratory stakeholders like WASPaLM. The relationship between IFCC and APFCB is excellent. The IFCC EB met the APFCB Executive Board in Bali on Monday 28 October.

5.02 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

The IFCC-COLABIOCLI agreement should be approved by the COLABIOCLI General Assembly at the COLABIOCLI Congress that will be held in Lima (October 29).

EB noted the possible joint IFCC-COLABIOCLI projects:

a) “*Traceability in Clinical Laboratory*”. Daniel Mazziotta met the C-TLM at the EuroMedLab in Milan. It is an huge and long term project and C-TLM can only partially support it. GB will ask to Dr. Mazziotta to focus on some specific items like an education programme to promote analytical quality and traceability in Laboratory Medicine in specific areas. IFCC can provide high level support in principle for the initiative to establish metrology laboratories in the LA region and to set up reference methods and prepare reference materials with reference values.

b) “*Salud Sexual Y Reproductiva-Disfuncion Vaginal*”. It is a joint action between COLABIOCLI and IFCC to produce education and courses on Quality in Laboratory practice. The courses should be done by officers with some expertise in microbiology and Spanish language knowledge. It should be considered the possibility for a WG-EMD or a TF.

EB noted that UT will attend the COLABIOCLI Congress in Lima, Peru during which the next COLABIOCLI Board will be elected.

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

EB noted the selection of Athens as the venue for EuroMedLab 2017.

EB received the notes of the EFLM Executive Board and of the General Assembly held in Milan. The EFLM will continue to press for change to the operational relationship between the IFCC Regions and the IFCC EB, supporting the proposal for an official Regional representation on the IFCC EB by their Presidents and the idea of a consolidated Regional/IFCC membership payment. EFLM expressed some concern about the IFCC strategy “Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine” presented at the General Assembly, in particular about expanding the IFCC membership to more than one laboratory medicine society in a country.

EB received the report from GB following his meeting with I Watson to discuss updating the IFCC-EFLM agreement. An updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is required from January 2014. The EB proposes further discussions with EFLM to conclude this agreement..

5.05 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

EB received the signed IFCC-AFCB agreement.

EB discussed the impact of political unrest in the Region on laboratory medicine practice. The next Arab meeting will be held in Khartoum (Sudan).

5.06 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

EB received a report from AFCC President Vanessa Steenkamp:

The 3rd congress of the AFCC was held in conjunction with the Laboratory Medicine Congress at the Cape Town Convention Centre (South Africa, 29-31 July 2013), there were 28 countries attending.

The C-CMBC of the IFCC, in collaboration with South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry (SAACB) and AFCC, ran a Beginners Course in Molecular Diagnostics at the Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, 12 participants completed the course. VS recommend that a detailed itinerary of what is required for this kind of workshop should be prepared well in advance in developing countries indicating what IFCC can supply and what would be required from the host.

The workshop on Laboratory Quality Management was held at the Two Ocean Aquarium was attended by 40 participants.

In January 2014 a project will commence in Zambia to introduce External Quality Assessment to selected clinical laboratories, the IFCC is partner of this initiative. VS outlined the progress of the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria and their collaboration with the IFCC. Members have been appointed into various committees and TFs of IFCC as members or corresponding members.

The IFCC WorldLab 2017 will take place in Durban, KwaZuklu-Natal, South Africa, 22-26 October.

5.1 American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC)

EB received notes on the topics discussed at the joint IFCC-AACC meeting held in Houston related to the IFCC Strategic Plan 2012-2014 (in particular “Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine”) and to the IFCC programs for 2013. IFCC greatly appreciates the contribution of AACC and its members. There are currently >30 US based experts supporting the work of IFCC.

6 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

EB noted progress with the three specific WHO projects as part of the joint Strategic Plan for 2013-15. The first draft of the publication entitled ‘Laboratory Diagnosis and Monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus’ is in preparation by Garry John & Cas Weycamp (IFCC) with input from Gojka Roglic (WHO); a WHO speaker will participate to the Bergmeyer Conference on ‘Women’s Health’ and WHO is included in the International Scientific Advisory Committee for IFCC World Lab Durban 2017; GB is still in discussion with Willy Urassa of WHO about the preparation of Database of Clinical Biochemistry Equipment for ‘Resource Challenged’ Countries considering that two similar initiatives already exist (College of American Pathologists and Trillium).

EB received and discussed the latest issue of the WHO Reform newsletter.

6.2 Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)

EB received the list of current joint IFCC-CLSI projects. The collaboration between IFCC and CLSI is very good, three new projects will be published on December 2013 (Metrological traceability and its implementation-M.Panteghini), early 2014 (reporting critical, life-threatening or life-altering laboratory results (GB) and May 2015 (Toxicology and Drug testing in the clinical laboratory-Ian Watson). LK and GB met with CLSI in Houston.

6.4 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

EB noted with sadness the death of Francoise Pontet in a road traffic accident. Francoise was Chair of IUPAC Division VII on Human Health and was a former Chair of the IFCC C-NPU.

EB noted the appointment of Thomas Perun (US) as the new Chair of IUPAC Division VII on Human Health. EB noted the continuing lack of commitment from IUPAC to the collaboration between NPU and IHTSDO, there still are important problems of communication.

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

EB noted the active collaboration with WASPaLM regarding the transition of 'Labs are Vital' and an increased collaboration with WASPaLM within TF-CKD.

6.22.1 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

EB noted that GB will attend two forthcoming meetings: 3-5 December 2013 JCTLM Stakeholder meeting and 6 December 2013 JCTLM Executive meeting.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.0 Minutes

EB received the minutes of the C-CC meeting held in Milan.

7.2 IFCC WorldLab Congresses

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

The Congress will be held at the Istanbul Congress Center within the heart of the "Congress Valley". The scientific programme is complete: 21 general symposia; IFCC will sponsor five symposia two from SD and one each from EMD, CPD and EB; the Industry Sponsored Workshops will be offered during the afternoon sessions of the Congress; satellite meetings will be organized before and after the main Congress (XIII International Congress Pediatric laboratory medicine, IFCC PoCT Satellite Meeting).

Arrangements for IFCC Meetings in Istanbul: June 20 and 21 Executive Board, 22 IFCC Council until 4,00 pm.

7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017

EB received a report from VS on plans for WorldLab 2017: the Congress will be held at the Durban International Convention Center, October 22-26th 2017. The President of the Congress is Rajiv Erasmus, the COC and the Scientific Committee were formed.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020

The deadline to submit applications was October 15, 2013. EB noted the seven applications received to host this congress (Korea, India, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Latvia, UK, Sweden) and the procedure to be adopted by C-CC in evaluating the bids.

7.2 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, the timing of the EB meeting and the great efficiency in the organization.

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

The EB noted the success of the Congress and congratulated the excellent organising team. All IFCC Divisions and many IFCC Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups chose to hold meetings in association with EuroMedLab. The scientific programme was excellent with a wide range of relevant topics considered in plenary lectures, symposia, educational workshops and posters. There were almost 5000 registered delegates from more than 100 different countries. In addition there were another 2000 visitors to the exhibition. It was especially pleasing to see so many young scientists and so many delegates from developing countries.

7.3.2.21 EuroMedLab Paris 2015

The EuroMedLab will be held in conjunction with the Journées International de Biologie (JIB) 2015 Exhibition June 22-24, 2015 at the Palais the Congrès. The following deadlines have been approved by COC: February 15, 2015 deadline for abstract submission; April 30, 2015, deadline for

reduced registration fees. The first announcement has been distributed during the EuroMedLab in Milan with the distribution of the informative pamphlet at the *Paris 2015* booth that will be organized in the APFCB Congress in Bali. The sponsorships from the IVD Companies are going very well.

7.3.2.22 EuroMedLab 2017

EB noted that this congress will be held in Athens. The Greek Society and MZ have held preliminary discussions about collaboration.

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.

7.3.4.22 COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito, Ecuador

EB noted that this congress will be held in October 2015 and that EB has received an invitation to meet at the congress.

7.3.6.14 AFCC 2015 Sudan

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

7.3.7.4 AFCC 2015

The 4th AFCC congress will be held in Zimbabwe. Tentative dates 29-30 April at Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls.

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

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

EB noted that SD has completed planning for this conference. The theme of the conference will be 'Women's Health'. There will be 4 sessions on: reproductive transitions and fertility, pregnancy and the fetus, cancer in women, other aspects of health in women.

7.4.6 Siemens - IFCC Conference, Toronto, October 24/25 2014 'Bio-markers in Neuropsychiatric Disorders' Siemens will sponsor the conference (JH), the scientific programme is ready (SB), the proposed speakers will be invited by the IFCC Office, PB will discuss with CSCC regarding the hotel and budget planning.

7.4.9 IFCC General Conference

EB discussed the venue and programme for the next General Conference to be held in Spring 2016. The candidate sites and the programme will be shown at the Council meeting in Istanbul. EB agreed to include in the programme a round table with Corporate Members and the possibility to have informal interactive meetings between IFCC officers (WGs, committees) as well as some free time for participants. The scientific and social programme will be studied in detail at the next EB meeting in Washington.

7.4.10 IFCC Abbott 'Turning Science into Caring' Conference

EB received a report from HM on the 2013 TSIC conference. The IFCC support in the organization was much appreciated. It was a very successful meeting with 200 attendants.

7.4.11 Bio-Rad Quality Conference in Latin America

EB noted that the 7th Quality Conference took place in September 2013 using the established distance learning model. GB recorded a welcome message for the conference. GB met with Bio-Rad in Houston, there is an increasing likelihood that Bio-Rad will formalise an agreement with IFCC to support future conferences.

7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices

EB noted that the list of congresses awarded IFCC auspices is updated and published on the IFCC website.

7.20 Membership

The IFCC EB decided to extend by one year the term of Office of the CC-C Chair, Tomris Obzen, to enable her active involvement in the delivery of the IFCC WorldLab 2014 Congress in Istanbul. James Wesenberg was approved as Chair elect in 2014 and the next Chair with effect from January 2015. The call for nominations to replace James Wesenberg, that will finish his 2nd term in 2014, has been sent to IFCC NSs, the applications will be accepted until October 31st

7.40 Other Meetings

EB noted the meeting planned in Bali between IFCC and OCD to discuss further collaboration on supporting training towards laboratory accreditation in India.

EB noted the arrangements for the meeting in Rome sponsored by Roche prior to the EB meeting in November 2014. The IFCC-Roche workshop “Alzheimer Disease: the role of the Laboratory” will be held at the “Jubilee 2000” hall at the University of Tor Vergata Hospital-Rome. The outline programme is ready and will be approved at the next EB meeting in Washington; PB will discuss with the Roche representative regarding the hotel and budget planning.

8. Scientific Division (SD)

8.0 Minutes

EB received the minutes of the 51st meeting of SD, which was held in Milan and had a meeting with I.Young and P.Gillery.

Considering the membership of the SD Executive Committee, EB agreed to confirm for a second term: I. Young, P. Gillery and G. Merlini.

IY raised some specific points for discussion:

- 1) Flexibility around appointment of Committee members, including additional members proposed by the Committee’s Chair who are able to contribute to specific activities, and consultant members from NSs and CMs. EB agreed in principle, but a general discussion is needed for this extra category of consulting members and a process of appointment has to be established.
- 2) Succession planning and involvement of young scientists, the proposal is to allow the introduction into each Committee and WG one additional young member suggested by NSs. A budget would be needed only for Committees. There is also need for scientists < 40 years old to replace vacant positions in Committee and WGs. EB suggested to discuss these proposals at the Council meeting.
- 3) Legal liability of members of Committees and WG. EB agree to explore this point, it is difficult to define the risk and the fields in which insurance for the officers would be needed.
- 4) AACC Harmonisation Initiative: SD remains very supportive and views as a high priority, this will be main source of SD standardization projects in the future.
- 5) Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI): the collaboration between IFCC and CLSI is very good; SD would like to receive all invitations to nominate to CLSI projects.
- 6) Bergmeyer Conference: SD has completed planning for this conference. WHO should contribute with a speaker on the global priority attached to ‘Women’s Health’, but SD still did not receive any communication.
- 7) Microbiology initiatives: SD is involved in two microbiology metrology projects: European Metrology Research Programme, INFECT-MET and Biositrace.

8.2 SD Committees

8.2.6 **C-NPU** The terminology database is now on the IFCC server and searchable via the web. Improving communication with IUPAC is very important for the future of C-NPU database. The Committee is waiting for the IUPAC EB that will be held in December hoping to obtain a 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. EB agreed to renew U.Forsum (SE) for a 2nd term.

8.2.11 **C-MD** The C-MD has been reorganized. The new Terms of Reference are: foster dynamic exchanges between IFCC and molecular diagnostic laboratories and industry; produce guidelines on clinical validation of tests, conduct and report on molecular diagnostic tests; provide reference materials; and create a network of locus-specific IFCC Molecular Diagnostics Centers.

8.2.21 **C-RSE** The C-RSE continues to work on the development of a reference measurement procedure for pancreatic lipase. EB agree to renew J. Gella (ES) and R. Rey (US) for a 2nd term. J M Lessinger (FR) will end his 2nd term in December 2013, a new member has to be sought, possibly from Developing Countries.

8.2.23 **C-TLM** The major objects of the committee are at present: to support activities of the JCTLM concerning identification of reference measurement procedures, reference materials and reference laboratories, to establish and maintain an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for reference laboratories and to act as advisory committee for the EQA scheme, to promote establishment and maintenance of IFCC reference laboratory networks for clinically relevant measurands (e.g. IFCC HbA1c network). EB agreed to renew G. Schumann (DE) for a 2nd term.

8.2.24 **C-RIDL** The C-RIDL continues to work to establish regional reference intervals. These regional reference intervals should be traceable to reference measurement procedures where possible. EB agreed to renew Y. Ozarda (TR), J. Barth (UK) and G. Klee (US) for a 2nd term.

8.2.25 **C-STFT** The C-STFT continues to work on an approach for using an all-procedure trimmed mean of results for standardization purposes in place of a reference measurement procedure where one does not exist. A proof-of-concept paper has been written and is accepted for publication in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. In place of a reference material, a panel of patient samples that are value assigned by the all-procedure trimmed mean will be used.

8.3 Working Groups:

8.3.35 **WG-HbA2** The WG-HbA2 continues to work on analytical issues to develop a reference measurement procedure for HbA2 and a SRM for HbA2 with IRMM and WHO.

8.3.36 **WG-CDT** The WG continues to work to develop a reference method for CDT, the HPLC candidate reference method is close to completion. EB agreed to renew the Chair F. Schellenberg (FR). He wishes to retire at the end of 2014 and a new chair will be sought at that time if indicated.

8.3.39 **WG-SAU** The WG continues to focus on the following projects: harmonization of urine albumin assay methods and development of a urine albumin reference measurement procedure. A manuscript "State of the Art for Measurement of Urine Albumin: Comparison of Routine Measurement Procedures to Isotope Dilution Tandem Mass Spectrometry" has been reviewed by SD and will be submitted to Clinical Chemistry.

8.3.40 **WG-PAPPA** Good progress in last year following successful funding appeal, five commercial assays have been developed and three of them well harmonised. The Chair K. Pettersson (FI) has completed his 2nd term, so a new chair will be sought.

8.3.42 **WG-SIA** Work ongoing on reference measurement procedure, the collection of clinical samples was completed; two new IFCC members with enthusiasm, time and energy to work with chair are needed. Gwen Wark (UK) has agreed to join the WG.

8.3.43 **WG-TnI** The Troponin and Natriuretic Peptide tables on the IFCC website will continue to be updated by the WG-TNI. EB agreed to renew the Chair J. Tate (AU) for one year to complete the project.

8.3.44 **WG-AETR** The WG-AETR organized a workshop on allowable errors for traceable results for the APFCB Congress in Bali. Renze Bais has completed his term as Chair. EB agreed to close the WG and transfer its activities to C-TLM.

8.3.45 **WG-HAT** The WG has concentrated on developing materials for IgG antibodies to myeloperoxidase and running a preliminary commutability study, the results indicate generally good agreement between the majority of methods evaluated. Good progress and liaison with IRMM. If productivity continues may required conversion to a Committee when the second term of the current Chair ends.

8.3.47 **WG-cMSP**: The WG-cMSP prepared a review for CCLM on quantitative clinical chemistry proteomics. The WG continues to consider issues related to comparing mass spectrometry methods with immunoassays available for measuring hepcidin and is it possible to establish a reference measurement procedure for hepcidin. EB agreed to renew the Chair S. Lehmann for a 2nd term.

8.3.48 **WG-PTH**: The WG-PTH has undertaken preliminary work to assess the commutability of the 1st International Standard for Parathyroid Hormone (PTH) (WHO IS 95/646), preliminary finding suggest that it is not commutable. A systematic review of pre-analytical factors has been completed. A candidate MS based reference method is to be developed in US.

8.3.49 **WG-CSF**: The WG-CSF has collected large amounts of CSF with the intent to develop a matrix-based reference material. Four laboratories (Waters, PPD, UPenn, and UGOT) are working on setting up an SRM based method for absolute quantification of A β in CSF with the aim to develop a reference method for this analyte. The overall aim of this pilot study is to do a first comparison of the different methods developed in the four laboratories.

8.3.50 **WG-SBMA**: The WG on Standardization of Bone Marker Assays (WG-SBMA) is a new WG established by the SD. This is a joint activity with the International Osteoporosis Foundation. The Term of Reference is to standardize or harmonize (as technically feasible or appropriate at this time) clinical assays available for routine and research use, for the following two bone turnover markers; the serum assay for C-telopeptide fragments of collagen type I α 1 chains containing the epitope Glu-Lys-Ala-His-Asp- β -Gly-Gly-Arg in an isomerized form (also known as serum Crosslaps (CTx)) and the serum assay for N-terminal Propeptide of Type I Procollagen (P1NP).

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.0 Minutes

EB received the minutes of the EMD meeting, which was held in Milan and had a meeting with M. Ferrari and P. Fortina.

Considering the membership of the EMD Executive Committee, EB agreed that Ana Maria Leticia Maselli (Guatemala) will replace Leslie Lai starting from Jan 2014.

9.2 Committees

9.2.4 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (**C-CMBC**)

M. Neumaier has completed his 2nd term as Chair. EB agreed to nominate Chair Evi Lianidou (GR) and to confirm Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez (US) for a 2nd term. A call for nomination for a vacancy position was issued in October. The Committee organized a successful course in Cape Town (ZA) in July 2013. The manuscript reporting the 10-year C-CMBC experience was submitted to Clin Chem in October.

9.2.5 Analytical Quality (**C-AQ**)

At the end of 2013, Janice Gill (AU) steps down as Co-Chair. David Bullock (UK) and Ann Vassault (FR) will complete the second term. EB agreed that Egon Amann (DE) takes the Chair position

without JG's substitution, a call for nominations for 2 new members was issued and the evaluation process is on-going. Current Focus Projects:

- 1) *Establish a directory of worldwide EQA services*, a worksheet has been established to collect the following information – country, organising body, EQA, website, e-mail, contact, open to international participation, disciplines. It is hoped that the IFCC Office will also distribute it to member countries. This database will be located on the C-AQ website as a resource for anyone wishing to join an EQA;
- 2) *Develop e-learning Presentations* with the Committee on Distance Learning to develop presentations of the 'Principles of EQA' and the 'Principles of IQC';
- 3) *Planning an EQA Scheme* with a checklist of items that need to be considered by countries that are planning to design and set up their own EQA scheme;
- 4) Update the document "*Fundamentals of EQA*" (1996);
- 5) *Resource Table for EQA Website* to collate a directory of various relevant resources for pre- and post-analytical QA, IQC and EQA which will reside in the C-AQ section of the IFCC website;
- 6) *EQA Consultation*, upon request of an IFCC member country, assist them to set up an EQA programme;
- 7) *IFCC Website – C-AQ Section*, periodically review and add to the C-AQ section of the IFCC website to ensure it remains a resource for IFCC members.

9.2.7 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (**C-EBLM**)

EB agreed to renew Hernan Fares-Taie for a 2nd term. At the end of 2014 the Chair and two members will complete their 2nd term; the IFCC Office will issue a call for nomination for one additional member in order to ensure that at the end of 2014 only one member remains.

Most recent activities and accomplishments of the C-EBLM include:

- 1) Organize a workshop, spearheaded by Diler Aslan and developed by the C-EBLM, at the 2014 WorldLab Congress in Istanbul, Turkey;
- 2) Continue to support the Hernan Taie's excellent Iberian Laboratory Medicine Radio Station. Members of the C-EBLM have provided several lectures in this programme;
- 3) Robert Christenson participated on behalf of both the IFCC C-EBLM and the AACC in a symposium titled 'Cardiac Biomarkers - The Evidence Base' at the AACB Annual Conference held in Queensland, Australia in September of 2013;
- 4) Chris Florkowski participated as a Visiting Lecturing Professorship in South America.

9.2.9 Committee for Clinical Laboratory Management (**C-CLM**)

EB noted the resignation of John Krahn (CA) as Chair of C-CLM. Barbara Goldsmith (BG) will complete her first term and not be reconfirmed. Rajiv Erasmus (RE) was reconfirmed for a second term. GB highlighted the important key role played by this Committee, the only one in IFCC addressing the topic of Laboratory Accreditation. He suggested that it would be very important to revise the ToR for this Committee by clearly including this topic. After the revision of the ToR, a call for nominations for 3 positions can be issued to complete the committee membership. The Chair will then be then selected after the final members are selected.

9.2.10 Distance Learning (**C-DL**)

This Committee is very active. JS and EH, together with PV met with James Donnelly of Siemens to discuss working together on distance-learning projects and established a contact with Rick Import of Whitehat Communications, who works with diagnostic companies in the preparation of distance-learning materials. Further new accessible material from the website includes the proceedings of a workshop 'Automation for Dummies' organised by DG and the TF-YS in Milan, the proceedings of Chemical Pathology courses organised in Vietnam, presentations on mass spectrometry arranged by RG, which formed part of the recent AACB Congress. In collaboration with the C-leL, the committee has concluded that the most practical way forward in developing modules for the website is to use powerpoint presentations from speakers at the IFCC Congresses or symposia with commentary, although this does not preclude other means being used, particularly with respect to

existing material for which a link can be established, with permission. PV and JS are anxious to develop an 'eAcademy', to provide a structure for the educational material.

9.3 Working Groups

9.3.8 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (**WG-LEPS**)

Mario Plebani's term as Chair will come to an end in December 2013 and Laura Sciacovelli (IT) is endorsed by the EB to act as Chair.

Two new WG have been proposed by MF: "Sport Medicine" and "New Technology and Cancer". EB will discuss this proposal at the next EB in Washington.

9.4 Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme

The VLP list has been updated and 15 applications were approved from the following countries: Algeria, Argentina, China, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Up to now, expenses total CHF 21,693.68. An additional CHF 19,000.00 are budgeted for incoming claims. Total estimated expenses will be approximately CHF 41,000.00. The IFCC Office will send a reminder that applications can still be sent for November and December VLP.

9.4.2 Flow Cytometry (**WG-FC**)

After the first flow cytometry course held in Leipzig in February 2012, a second course was organised in co-operation with the ESCCA in Saint-Etienne in France last April. The focus was the monocyte-macrophage system (local organizer Claude Lambert). The third course has been planned for April 24-26 2014 for Vienna, Austria (local organizer Andreas Spittler). The organisation of an Asia course will be discussed at the 2014 IFCC WorldLab Congress in Istanbul.

9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

EB received the new DQCML leaflet that arose from the brainstorming meeting held in Milan. A 20 slide presentation is going to be made to promote the project. Mike Thomas and Silvia Cattaneo will continue to develop it. Following the distribution of promotional material, correspondence has been received from the following regarding enquiries to engage with the DQCML project: Mabel Charles-David on behalf of ACCN-Nigeria, the All-Ukrainian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine; Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (Prof. Rossa Chiu); Qing Li from China. GB indicated that the EQA Zambia project is progressing and will link with the DQCML at an appropriate time.

MF will contact MT to summarize the discussion in the EMD-EC regarding the role of DQCML and VLP to avoid overlap.

9.4.4 Possible IFCC Quality Assessment Scheme

EB noted the progress towards introduction of an EQA scheme into Zambia. The project being organized jointly with Randox (15 labs involved). No progress in Nicaragua.

10. Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.0 Minutes

EB received the minutes of the CPD meeting which was held in Milan and had a meeting with K. Adeli and P. Vervaart.

Considering the membership of the CPD Executive Committee, EB agreed to renew P. Vervaart (AU) and B Jordan (CH) for a 2nd term.

The eJournal (eJIFCC) and the e-Newsletter have been improved through work with InSoft. The main objective for the future of eJIFCC is the Indexing (PubMed, Scope).

10.2 Committees

10.2.1 Committee Public Relations (**C-PR**)

The PR brochure (2012-14) as well as the PR Slide Kit have been updated. The C-PR suggests that the PR brochures (produced in Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Turkish, Russian) should have the NSs logo next to the IFCC logo and that should be printed by NSs, EB agreed. A Slide Kit on Role of Lab Medicine and Its Role in Healthcare Delivery has been created. The Development of a PR brochure for general public, governments and industry is ongoing. The C-PR collaborates with 'Labs Are Vital™' and has two members on the Board.

10.2.2 Committee for Internet and e-Learning (**C-leL**)

EB noted that Janine Grant (AU) has been appointed as IFCC Web Editor.

Activities include: Electronic/preferential voting, development of private/closed website areas, distance learning programming access; developing policy and procedure for IFCC functional unit access/editing of individual web pages.

Many improvements have been made to the website on importing and maintaining many databases, eLibrary and Archives, bookstore; and on enhancing the website's attractiveness, effectiveness and popularity. During 2012 the website showed a 5% increase in visitors (about 110.000 visits, 72% new visitors).

10.3 Working Groups

10.3.5 Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry

EB received an update on progress with the Ibero-American Radio of Clinical Biochemistry. The project has having a great success. From the beginning of the radio programme to October 2013, "El Microscopio" had 70 programmes in Spanish, 6 in English and 1 in Portuguese, 118 interviewees, 81 topics covered, 56 pieces of news about history, 23 correspondents in Ibero America, more than 30,648 followers on Facebook. The visit per months increased from 2500 to 21000. Other contributions must be added to the IFCC support, even if many Companies are not familiar with the Latin America marketing, BioRad, Siemens and Beckman may be interested to sponsor the project (JH).

10.9.2 IFCC Booth

EB agreed that IFCC should have a booth at the AACC congress in Chicago in July 2014.

10.40 Other business

Official Journal of IFCC

EB noted that the contract with Elsevier was signed at a ceremony in Houston and IFCC has appointed three people to the Editorial Board of CCA. NSs should promote CCA to members considering the attractive offer for a 2014 subscription to CCA for individuals who are members of IFCC Member societies.

'Labs Are Vital™'

EB noted that the 'Labs Are Vital' website is now operational www.labsarevital.com and that a Press Conference was held at the AACC congress in Houston. E. Jacobs has been proposed as the IFCC Member of the Steering Committee and E. Delvin has been appointed as Clinical Editor.

IFCC Historian

EB received an update from GB on recent discussions with the IFCC Historian (Peter Wilding) following his report. It would be advisable to write to the NSs to know if they have stories to show (abstracts) or if they have members interested in forming a network on the subject. The photographic archive of the IFCC is in need of further development.

Proposed e-Academy

The CPD proposed to create an IFCC e-Academy with software able to publish e-learning programmes and make them more accessible. The estimated cost is 18700 euro for 220 hours of work by InSoft Digital that should create concept, description and functional mock ups. Given the

size, the project should be staged in three phases: an initial release which will include the most common features, a second release with most advanced features and a third release which should include membership options, for tracking and crediting. EB agreed with enthusiasm to this proposal.

11.0 IFCC Awards

11.01 IFCC Awards Committee

EB received an update from PB on the sponsorship of the seven IFCC Awards:

- 1) IFCC distinguished Clinical Chemist Awards-sponsored by Beckman Coulter;
- 2) IFCC Henry-Wishinsky Award for distinguished international service-sponsored by Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics;
- 3) IFCC Award for distinguished contributions in educations-sponsored by Abbott Laboratories;
- 4) IFCC-Abbot Award for significant contributions in molecular diagnostics- sponsored by Abbott Laboratories;
- 5) IFCC distinguished Award for laboratory medicine and patient care-sponsored by UniLabs;
- 6) IFCC-Robert Schaffer Award for outstanding achievements in the development of standards for use in laboratory medicine-sponsored by NIST CLSI;
- 7) IFCC young investigator Award -sponsored by IFCC.

EB noted that the call for nominations for the IFCC Awards with a closing date of 30 November 2013, 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 received the annual report of TF-Ethics. During 2013 the TF has posted a white paper on publication ethics on IFCC website and submitted a survey instrument, to the IFCC office, on teaching of ethics, which will be conducted during 2014.

EB has to recruit new members for TF-Ethics to replace DE Bruns, CA Burtis and MJ McQueen and possibly JJ Jonsson. Ethics is a huge and important topic, it will be necessary to recruit people specialized in different areas. EB agreed to consult IFCC Members on possible projects for TF-Ethics to aid the recruitment of suitable TF members.

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

EB received the annual report of TF-PLM. The XIII International Congress Paediatric laboratory medicine will be held in Istanbul as a satellite meeting of the IFCC WorldLab. The preliminary scientific program 2014 is on the website, www.icplm2014.org . Contacts have been made with special Paediatric Interest Groups of National Clinical Chemistry Societies: AACC PMF Division, DGKL Section "Paediatric Laboratory Medicine", CSCC Paediatric Focus group. These groups will be providing some financial support for the ICPLM meeting. In addition contact was made with Royal College of Pathologists, and the Australian Biochemical society who will also provide some financial support. EB noted the linked website for TF-PLM, which includes the important the paediatric reference range initiative.

13.01.03 Task Force on Pharmacogenetics (TF-PG)

EB received the annual report of TF-PG. A second draft TMPT guideline has been prepared and distributed among TF-PG, C-MD, advisory members and clinical associations (ECCO, BFM-group, BAD). Clinical association/ECCO gives mixed feedback on the TMPT guideline: some welcome it with enthusiasm, some do not want to support. The IFCC PGx-network has been started: a list of laboratories made that use pharmacogenetics in a clinical setting has been composed. Considering the next guidelines, tam/CYP2D6, CYP2C19/clopidogrel, DPYD/5-FU are currently under discussion. The TF-PG would like to propose a PGx session for Paris 2015.

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

EB received the annual report of TF-CKD. EB agreed to confirm an extension of one year to G Jones (AU) as Chair of TF-CKD. A group of corresponding members has been opened to increase global reach, 10 corresponding members have been adopted: Africa 2, Asia 2, South America 1,

Europe 5. A survey of IFCC corporate members regarding traceability of creatinine and cystatin C assays has been done (responses received from only 5 corporations). A draft is in preparation for web pages as addition to IFCC website to provide additional information on CKD and laboratory testing. Communication and engagement remain the major issue.

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

EB received the annual report of TF-HbA1c. During 2013, new laboratories have been introduced into the IFCC Network. The TF worked with NGSP (US) to continue to provide a service, with RECCS (Japan) to identify and correct differences in the two standardisation schemes, with WHO (in collaboration with IDF) to develop a comprehensive questionnaire and a system for measuring HbA1c in developing countries. During 2014 the TF would like to further develop educational activities especially in Asia, Russia and South America; to work more closely with bigger manufacturers to identify issues in standardisation; and to circulate a questionnaire.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (**TF-YS**)

EB received the annual report for TF-YS. The new Chair is Gabriel KO (FR).

During 2013 many activities have been performed: educational training and educational sessions; the project for a TF-YS webpage included in the IFCC website; and many networking activities to increase the participation to the TF-YS initiatives. For 2014 TF-YS proposes to produce a “YS White Book” as a resource to aid understanding of laboratory medicine in the present and to stimulate thinking for the future. EB agreed that the “YS White Book” is very interesting but will be difficult to realize. GB will discuss with G Ko.

13.01.07 Task Force on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-markers (**TF-CB**)

EB received the annual report of TF-CB. The TF focused on the use of new, high-sensitive cardiac troponin assays. A draft of two short documents on “Analytical issues on high-sensitive cardiac troponin assays” and “The use of serial cardiac troponin values” has been done. The TF aim is to post the documents at the IFCC web site. The TF should consider whether the heterogeneity of its composition (cardiologists, ED physicians and lab specialists) is suitable for the speedy development of its tasks. The TF will finish its commitment by the end of 2013. EB agreed to invite TF-CB to suggest follow up projects.

13.01.08 Task Force on POCT (**TF-POCT**)

EB received the annual report for TF-POCT. A WG on “How should Glucose Meters be Evaluated for Critical Care?” was established. The document on “Thinking of Introducing PoCT -Things to consider” will be submitted for publication soon. A PoCT Satellite meeting will be held at the IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul. A PoCT Collaborative group which includes CLSI, AACC, AACB and EFLM has been established to discuss PoCT work being performed in respective organisations to identify areas for collaboration and potentially reduce duplication of work and develop a database of POCT resources available on website

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

EB received the annual report for TF-ICO. An article to be submitted to Clinical Chemistry is now in 3rd draft form (expected submission Dec 2013). The TF will participate at the World lab Istanbul 2014 in IFCC symposium and MH will participate at AACC 2014 as Chair’s Invited Session on Measuring the Value of Laboratory Medicine. EB suggests that this TF should be focused on more clinical projects, new knowledge in the field is needed. GB will discuss with M Hallworth.

13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

EB received a report summarising the PSEP and PMEP approved during 2013. PSEP (Egypt, Spain and India), PMEP (Kenya and Zambia). EB expressed thanks to the PEP hosting laboratories (V. Steenkamp (ZA), EP Diamandis (CA), R. Erasmus (SA), F. Sar (TR).

13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

EB received a report summarising the scholarships awarded for EuroMedLab for Bali and Lima. EuroMedLab 8 scholarships (India, Indonesia, Albania, Nigeria, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Zambia); Bali 10 scholarships (3 for India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Zambia); Lima one scholarship (Bolivia).

14.0 IFCC Statutes and Rules

EB agreed to introduce a new Rule to address situations where there is only one nomination for a vacant position: "*If only one valid nomination is received for a vacant position then the nominee will be appointed without the need for a confirmatory ballot*".

EB confirmed the role of the Nominations Committee in soliciting bids for the position of President Elect.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.4 Annual Report for 2013

The Office will send notice to Chairs at the beginning of 2014. It should be ready for Istanbul.

16.6 Procedures Manual

The IFCC Procedures Manual will be finalized by the end of the year.