

**REPORT ON THE 2016 MADRID X11 GENERAL CONFERENCE, HOTEL AUDITORIUM –
MARRIOT, MADRID, SPAIN, 19-21 MARCH, 2016**

THEME: FEEDING THE FUTURE OF IFCC NOW

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I must say that the IFCC is a family. I therefore felt at home at my arrival at the Hotel Auditorium-Marriot, Madrid, Spain. As expected, the reception at the hotel was good and the familiar faces in the IFCC office were on ground to ensure that the registration process was smooth. The shuttle bus from the hotel-Marriot arrived early enough to take their guests from the airport to the hotel. Thanks to the Conference Organizing Committee. The following two and half days: 19-21 March, 2016 were the intensive business days with each evening put together for relaxation and interaction among the attendees. Additionally, 'the concept of work while you relax' was actualised when the Young Scientist Task Force spiced the first evening with a keynote address and discussion on 'The protective role of Mediterranean diet on cardiovascular diseases, risk in the Environmental Health Perspectives'.

All the sessions were brilliant, interesting and really 'fed the future of the IFCC in the now'. There were extensive discussions on the partnership of all stake holders in laboratory medicine as well as accommodation of their concerns within the IFCC in the interest of the patient. There were brain storming periods on the best options in laboratory medicine practice within the present global realities and perspectives of the environment, emerging internet facilities and high tech in the face of the dwindling economy.

As a scientist in the field of endocrinology, I was delighted with the discussion on 'Crossing science and education: HbA1c analysis: Understanding what is measured fundamental to interpretation' by Garry John. Coming from Nigeria in sub-Saharan Africa with known haemoglobinopathies, the importance and the impact of HbA1c measurement in our population require attention. I was excited, again, because of my background as an African, about the IFCC project on the 'Foundation for Emerging Nations'. There were also enlightening and stimulating interactive workshops especially on 'Increasing Clinical Effectiveness' coordinated by Dr G. Beastall. The conference was well packaged and fulfilling with many new lessons learnt to take home and digest for the benefit of our national societies. The tour of Madrid after the conference amidst rain in cold spring was fascinating and then, it was time to go home and say bye to Madrid.

I finally wish to appreciate the IFCC for the opportunity to participate in the 2016 IFCC General Conference in Madrid by awarding me the grant for this conference.