



Executive Summary - Scientific Division 36th Meeting, Milan, September 30-October 1, 2005.

Present: Jean-Claude Forest (Chair), Mauro Panteghini (Vice-Chair), Howard Morris (Secretary), Nader Rifai, Ian Young, Ulf-Hakan Stenman, Rolf Hinzmann (Corporate Representative), David Bunk (NIST Representative), Heinz Schimmel (IRMM Representative) and Mathias Muller (EB Liaison).

6.2 CLSI: The list of joint CLSI/IFCC Projects and their IFCC consultants have been reviewed.

6.31 INSTITUTE FOR REFERENCE MATERIALS AND MEASUREMENTS (IRMM)

Projects are progressing to prepare Certified Reference Materials in collaboration with a number of SD Committees and Working Groups.

8.2 MAIN ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES

8.2.6 C-NPU: The Chair has entered into discussions with a representative of CLSI with regard to common interests in the database and potential for sharing responsibilities.

8.2.11 C-MD: The priority area is the development of a network of locus specific IFCC Molecular Diagnostics Centers.

8.2.13 C-PP: The C is in the final stages of releasing a simplified protocol for transferring values from Reference Materials (for example from CRM470) to commercial protein assays. The collection of raw materials for the 2nd Preparation CRM470 is continuing.

8.2.19 C-SMCD: A protocol for the standardisation of troponin I is in the final stages of preparation. Progress is being made towards the selection of BNP and NT-pro-BNP materials (recombinant and synthetic peptides) that will be assessed as candidate reference materials.

8.2.21 C-RSE: The development of reference procedures and materials for Alkaline Phosphatase and Amylase has progressed significantly. IRMM is currently assessing the preparation of a pilot batch of AST reference material.

8.2.22 C-POCT: The C is seeking to refocus on POCT issues.

8.2.23 C-TLM: A major task has been the preparation of a Procedure Manual for the participation of candidate reference laboratories in the IFCC Ring Trials.

8.2.24 C-RIDL: The C is assisting with the production of the CLSI/IFCC joint document on reference intervals.

8.3 MAIN ACTIVITIES OF WORKING GROUPS

8.3.3 WG-SEB: Current projects are being completed.

8.3.8 WG-MA: Technical issues regarding the production and characterisation of new SP 308 Apo B reference material are under review.

8.3.16 WG-SHCG: The external QA study to assess the impact of the use of the new HCG reference materials on assay performance has been completed.

8.3.19 WG-HbA1c: The network of 14 approved laboratories is participating in twice yearly Ring Trials with an imprecision of less than 1%. The Clinical Implementation Group has as its highest priority to adopt a single global system for the name of the analyte, clinical decision limits and units as soon as possible.

8.3.24 WG-NT: A new project proposal has been requested.

8.3.33 WG-STFT: Total T4 is the first measurand to standardise with work on the development of commutable serum matrix-based reference materials underway. Progress has been made with the development of a reference procedure for the measurement of free T4.

8.3.35 WG-HbA₂: Preparations of pure HbA₀ and HbA₂ are now available and considerable progress has been made with the development of a reference method for HbA₂.

8.3.36 WG-CDT: The initial aim is to establish a reference system for CDT while over the longer term it is proposed to establish recommendations for the clinical use of CDT testing.

8.3.37 WG-SCC: A plan has been adopted to develop reference material for cystatin-C and identify a reference procedure.

8.3.38 WG-GFRA: A plan has been adopted to support the international education campaign particularly to laboratory professionals as well as advocating the benefits of specific methods for creatinine measurement.

8.3.39 WG-SMA: The scientific strategy of this WG is under development.

8.8 PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. “*Standardisation of PAPP-A*” has been received and, after the recommendation of some changes, has been recommended for support to the EB. EB approved: 8.3.40.
2. “*Growth Hormone*” has been received. EB support will be asked for a project to focus on the reporting of GH concentrations in mass units and to investigate the commutability of WHO recombinant material. EB approved: 8.3.41.
3. “*Preanalytics of biobanking*” has been considered as an important issue and people concerned with the project will be consulted with regard to their interest in establishing a WG.
4. “*Standardisation of serum/plasma insulin assays*” project will be investigated for interest amongst international organisations and industry.

8.19 MEETINGS

8.19.37 37th SD meeting will take place in Damascus, Syria on 28-29 April 2006.