

EDUCATION & MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

EMD Executive Committee (EMD-EC)
Minutes of Two Meetings on
Sat 21-Oct-2017 (9:00-15:45) and Mon 23-Oct-2017 (8:45-11:30)
Durban, South Africa (@IFCC WorldLab congress; Rooms: Umgeni & Injasuthi)



Members	Position	Term	Time of Office	Attendance
Leslie LAI – LL (MY)	Chair	1st	2015 01 – 2017 12	Present
Elizabeth FRANK – EF (IN)	Vice Chair, VLP Chair	1st	2017 01 – 2019 12	Present
Paolo FORTINA – PF (US)	Secretary	1st	2017 01 – 2019 12	Apologies
André ZIEGLER – AZ (CH)*	Corporate Represent.	1st	2017 01 – 2019 12	Present
Ana Leticia MASELLI– AM (GT)	Member	2nd	2017 01 – 2019 12	Apologies
Silvia CARDINALE – SC (IT)	IFCC Office			Present

Meeting with Chairs:

Mon 23-Oct-2017

Chairs of EMD Committees (C) / Working groups (WG) / Special Projects (SP):

- Chris FLORKOWSKI: Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)
- Samuel VASIKARAN: Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments EQA (WG-ICQA)
- Donald YOUNG/ Graham BEASTALL: IFCC Mentoring Programme for Developing Countries (WG-MENT)
- Egon AMANN: Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (WG-DQCML)
- Sedef YENICE: Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)
- Annette THOMAS: Analytical Quality (C-AQ)

1. Welcome and introductions

LL welcomed the EMD-EC to the very first IFCC EMD meeting hosted in Africa. LL notified that 2 EC members (AM, PF) were unable to attend because of work commitments and had sent their apologies. LL emphasized 3 highlights of the next days:

- IFCC WorldLab Opening ceremony on 22.10.17 (17:35-18:45)
- IFCC Council meeting on 22.10.17 (9:00-15:15)
- and many EMD workshops during the next few days.

SC provided a very comprehensive pre-meeting package with relevant details (budget, functional units time, etc); LL had also sent a written September 2017 update report of the diverse EMD working groups (WGs) and committees (Cs). AZ volunteered to be the minutes secretary for this meeting.

Meeting minutes from Athens were approved by the EC, and no open actions were noted.

2. Notification of other business and finalization of the agenda

No changes to the original agenda.

3. Report from Executive Board

a. Summary minutes - EB Athens

Details are available online (www.ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/ebminutes/).

The most relevant for the EMD being: EB emphasizing the creation of a new division “Emerging Technologies Division” (ETD); new ETD will affect the composition of the Executive Committee in EMD because there will be a vacancy arising in the EMD EC as PF will be moving to ETD EC.

4. Review of EMD Committees (C) 9.2.n, Working Groups (WG) 9.3.n and Special Projects (SP)

9.02.04 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Evi Lianidou	Chair	GR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
E. Capoluongo	Member	IT	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
V. Haselmann	Member	DE	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Vacant	Member				ONE VACANCY
A. Ferreira Gonzalez	Consultant	US			

1. A symposium entitled “The Liquid Biopsy approach: Following the tumor in peripheral blood” was held on June 15th 2017 during the Athens EuroMedLab Congress.

2. The annual meeting of the C-CMBC Committee was held during the Athens

EuroMedLab Congress on Monday, June 12th 2017. The annual meeting was attended by all C-CMBC committee members. Previous member, Prof Andrea Ferreira Gonzales, now a consultant to the committee also attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by the following IFCC Junior members: Kovacs Zsolt (2016, Romania) and Maria Eugenia Schroeder (2010, Uruguay).

3. It was planned to have a discussion with Dr Oliver Racz, President of Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry to discuss the details of organizing the 2017 course in Slovakia. However, Dr. Racz finally did not go to the EuroMedLab Congress. No representatives from Slovakia attended the scheduled meeting. Prof Evi Lianidou had been in contact with Dr. Racz planning to organize the course from 29th October – 4th November 2017. However, there was a significant delay from the Slovakia counterparts on this issue. So the course has had to be postponed and Prof Evi Lianidou is now in contact with the Slovakian Society to organize the course at the beginning of 2018 (somewhere between mid-January to mid-February).

Actions	Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
Action 1	1 vacant position in C-CMBC: to clarify with chair (Evi LIANIDOU) whether to advertise the vacant position	LL	Dec-2017	Done; not to fill

9.02.05 Analytical Quality (C-AQ)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Annette Thomas	Chair	UK	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
D. Grenache	Member	US	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	
A. Haliassos	Member	GR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Q. Meng	Member	CA	1st	2016 04 - 2018 12	
L. Khoroskaya	Member	RU	1st	2017-01 - 2019 12	

1. Updating of the “Directory of EQA Services” on a regular basis. This has been completed for 2017 and the site will be maintained by Alexander Haliassos as an IFCC Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT) and C-AQ venture.

2. The “EQA Setup Checklist” in the C-AQ section of the IFCC website was reviewed by Annette Thomas in January 2017 and tested at a workshop in South Africa (27/28-Jan-2017 Cape Town; “Improving the quality of diabetes testing”). The existing checklist was deemed suitable by the audience.

3. Updating of the existing “Resource table for EQA” database is ongoing with a target date for completion in October 2017.

4. Development of eLearning presentations for the IFCC eAcademy as follows: A power point presentation on the Principles of EQA has been reviewed and updated by Annette Thomas. Principles of IQC has been developed by Alexander Haliassos. Quality Planning has been completed by Annette Thomas. The committee is currently awaiting the software to provide to the eAcademy the presentations in the expected format.

5. Development of a joint C-AQ / C-CLM publication on “Developing a Quality System” aimed at developing countries is in progress. Annette Thomas has provided the C-CLM Chair with the outline document of contribution from the C-AQ with an agreed approach. A

more detailed plan of contributors and content will be discussed at the C-AQ meeting in Durban.

6. Annette Thomas conducted a workshop on 27th to 28th January 2017 in South Africa organized by the Chair of the C-EUBD.

7. New work plan – to develop (or source) pre and post analytical educational materials.

8. A conference call was held on 20th February 2017 and 27th June 2017. Next Meeting has been organized for Sunday 22nd and Wednesday 25th October 2017 at the IFCC WordLab Congress in Durban.

9.02.07 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Chris Florkowski	Chair	NZ	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	PROPOSED NEW CHAIR A. ZEMLIN
A. Zemlin	Member	ZA	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	ONE VACANCY
J. Wils	Member	FR	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	PROPOSED 2ND TERM
K. Rodriguez-Capote	Member	CA	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
N. Giménez Gomez	Member	ES	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	

1. Two presentations (slide sets) have been completed by the Chair:

- a) EBLM – what is it and why do we need it? and
- b) EBLM – diagnostic accuracy studies and sources of bias.

Familiarisation of committee members with PresentMe is ongoing. Topics have been allocated for committee members to work on.

2. Endocrine guideline topics have been allocated for review. The reviews have been partially completed – awaiting feedback from others. The findings will be collated with a view to a publication – Julien Wils / Andrew D-W.

3. An EBLM questionnaire has been collated and piloted by Drs K Capote and N Gimenez. The questionnaire has been distributed to global societies through IFCC portals. Feedback has been received and is being collated with a view to presentation in Durban, 2017. The feedback received and collated will also be published.

4. Invited review on POCT and clinical decision making – see publications.

5. The committee has organised and will conduct symposia for COLABIOCLI and IFCC WorldLab:

COLABIOCLI Congress, Punta del Este, Uruguay, September 2017, EMD Workshop: "Why should we use Medicine Evidence-Based clinical laboratory in practice?" Symposium 2h (20-Sept-2017, Uruguay)

Chair H.Fares-Taie

- 1) Introduction to EBM and EBLM, Speaker: H. Fares Taie (AR)
- 2) Description of the EBM/EBLM tools, Speaker: K.Rodriguez-Capote (CA)
- 3) Evaluation of clinical practice guidelines and scientific literature using PSA testing for prostate cancer screening as an example of EBM/EBLM, Speaker:

N.Gimenez (ES)

- 4) Small group discussions, formulate an answerable question for PSA
- 5) Applying informatics technology to disseminate clinical biochemistry knowledge, Speaker: H.Fares-Taie

IFCC WorldLab October 2017, EMD Symposium: Evidence-based laboratory medicine: A global perspective; Symposium 2h (24-Oct-2017, Durban)

Chair A. Zemlin (ZA)

- 1) What is EBLM and why do we need it?
Speaker: C.Florkowski (NZ)
- 2) Why do Guidelines vary so much and how do we recognize a good one?
Speaker: J.Wils (FR)
- 3) Global feedback on EBLM perceptions and requirements for training
Speaker: K.Rodriguez-Capote (CA)
- 4) Getting the EBLM message out to the world new resources.
H.Fares-Taie – (AR)

6. Scheduled Committee meeting will be held at the IFCC WorldLab, Durban on Sun 22nd October; 1-5 pm.

7. PUBLICATIONS – Two publications are in preparation:

- 1) Point of Care Testing (POCT) and Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (EBLM) – does it leverage any advantage in clinical decision making?
Florkowski , Chris, Canterbury Health Laboratories, Don-Wauchope, Andrew, LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services, Gimenez, Nuria, Hospital Mutua Terrassa, Rodriguez-Capote, Karina, DynaLIFE Medical Labs, Wils, Julien, University Hospital of Rouen Zemlin, A.E., Stellenbosch University, Division of Chemical Pathology.
- 2) Critical Reviews in Laboratory Medicine – under review “Endocrine guideline overview”.

9.02.09 Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Sedef Yenice	Chair	TR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
M. Orth	Member	DE	1st	2015 03 - 2017 12	PROPOSED 2ND TERM
E. Randell	Member	CA	1st	2016 04 - 2018 12	
A.A. Khine	Member	ZA	1st	2016 04 - 2018 12	
Praveen Sharma	Member	IN	1st	2017 03 - 2019 12	

1. The EMD Executive Committee in agreement with Sedef Yenice (SY), the Chair, and full members of the EMD Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM) appointed Praveen Sharma (India) as Full Member of the Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM) for a first term from March 2017 till December 31st, 2019.

2. A conference call was successfully held on 7th April 2017 with the participation of Praveen Sharma (PS) and Matthias Orth (MO). Aye Aye, Khine (AK) connected to the

conference call but no voice connection was made due to her audio settings. Neither visual nor audio call was performed with Ed Randell (ER). Calls failed due to his call settings. A face-to-face meeting is scheduled on 24th October 2017 from 12.30 to 14.00 hours at the meeting room LOTHENI, Hilton Durban Hotel with the participation of MO, AK, and ER. PS has informed SY about his absence due to his attendance at the ACBI Lunch Symposium on "Pathophysiology of the Metabolic syndrome" at the Convention Centre where he is the chair as well as a lecturer.

3. Development of a monograph on "Project Management Basics for Laboratory Leaders" is in progress. It is planned to cover the development of related skills in team management, risk management, plus other leadership skills that C-CLM has identified. Chapters were assigned to authors on 13th April 2017, and scheduled to be finalized by 30th December 2017. SY shared the "instructions for authors" with the members of C-CLM on 15th April 2017.

4. A survey activity is planned during the Satellite Educational Workshop on "Intelligent Clinical Laboratory Management: Impacts on Quality System Improvement" that will be held at the Hilton Durban Hotel, on 22nd October 2017.

5. A symposium entitled "Improvement in Clinical Laboratory Services: Approaches to Adding Value" will be held at the IFCC WorldLab, 25th October 2017, Durban, South Africa. 90min (25-Oct- 2017, Durban)

6. The C-CLM website was updated on 30th January 2017.

7. A guide entitled "A Training Manual on Leadership Basics for Clinical Laboratory Professionals" is planned to be finalized by 30th November 2017.

8. A joint C-AQ/C-CLM publication on "Developing Quality Systems in the Clinical Laboratory" aimed at developing countries is being developed. SY submitted an outline of chapters, including authors, to Annette Thomas (AT) (Chair of C-AQ) on 14th August 2017. AT informed SY on 14th September 2017 that C-AQ members were very happy with the C-CLM's proposal. SY and AT both agreed to meet in Durban to structure the progress.

9. C-CLM will hold a Satellite Educational Workshop on "Intelligent Clinical Laboratory Management: Impacts on Quality System Improvement" at the Hilton Durban Hotel, on 22nd October 2017 - Satellite 8h (22-Oct-2017, Durban).

This event is sponsored by industrial partners as well as the Federation of South African Societies of Pathology (FSASP). Attendance is limited to only 60 participants and is open to practising laboratory professionals, laboratory specialists, laboratory physicians, laboratory technicians, medical laboratory technologists, laboratory managers, supervisors and laboratory quality managers.

The workshop agenda is available through:

http://www.durban2017.org/documenti/CCLM_EDUCATIONAL_WORKSHOP_INVITATION_LETTER_20170912.pdf

http://www.durban2017.org/documenti/Satellite4_20170912.pdf

10. The power points of the Leadership Training Module were submitted on 27th January 2017 and were uploaded onto the C-CLM website on 30th January 2017.

11. SY was invited as an IFCC-Abbott VLP speaker at the 2nd Conference of the

Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM) with international participation in Timișoara, from 10th till 13th May 2017. SY chaired the session on Quality Management with Prof. Dr.Minodora Dobreanu on 11th May 2017 and delivered two talks on the following topics:

- Understanding quality management system: Essential strategies to improve laboratory performance
- Role of proactive measures in clinical laboratory practice

SY submitted a report of her visiting lectureship to the 2nd Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM) to Dr. Elizabeth A Frank on 5th June 2017.

12. A conference call was held on 7th April 2017 with the participation of PS and MO.

13. PUBLICATIONS. The abstracts of the lectures delivered by SY were published in the following supplement issue of Romanian Journal of Laboratory Medicine:

Yenice S. Understanding Quality Management System: Essential Strategies to Improve Laboratory Performance. Romanian Journal of Laboratory Medicine. S21-22, Supplement Vol.25, Nr.2, April 2017.

Yenice S. Role of Proactive Measures in the Clinical Laboratory Practice. Romanian Journal of Laboratory Medicine. S25, Supplement Vol.25, Nr.2, April 2017.

Actions	Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
Action 2	Current C-CLM monograph (2012) is good for developed countries, but older monograph (2008) should be available on the website as well as it is a suitable for emerging countries → put it back onto the website	SC	Dec-2017	closed

9.02.10 Distance Learning (C-DL)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Janet Smith	Chair	UK	2nd	2015 01 - 2017 12	
R. Greaves	Member	AU	2nd	2015 01 - 2017 12	
D. Gruson	Member	BE	2nd	2015 01 - 2017 12	
E. Hoyaranda	Member	ID	2nd	2015 01 - 2017 12	
L. Langman	Member	US	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	PROPOSED NEW CHAIR

1. The approval of educational material to be made available on or through the IFCC website, to ensure quality, continues.

2. The development of the IFCC curriculum continues. Following discussions at the C-DL meeting in Athens, it was decided to change the format of the curriculum to include learning objectives for each topic. These will then be used to formulate the multiple choice questions which will be applied to modules published in the eAcademy.

3. There is continuing collaboration with the Committee on the Internet and e-Learning (C-IeL) on eAcademy development and planning for the future, including collaboration for the joint CPD/EMD symposium at the COLABIOCLI Congress in September 2017.

Symposium 2h (18-Sep-2017, Uruguay): “IFCC eAcademy: Progress and the future” as joint CPD (C-IeL)/ EMD (C-DL) activity. Talks will be given at the symposium by Janet Smith and Eduardo Freggiaro. Peter Vervaart is unable to be present at the Congress, so his talk will be presented as a recorded voice over power point presentation, using the software these two committees are promoting for those preparing modules for the eAcademy.

4. The development of the mass spectrometry area of the eAcademy is now complete and includes learning objectives.

5. The Committee had a successful meeting in Athens in June 2017 and also met jointly with C-IeL where plans for the future were proposed. These included the potential employment of a consultant to assist with the communication between the two committees and those preparing modules and the intention to translate eAcademy content, initially into Spanish.

6. C-DL had hoped to meet with other EMD committees on the development of e-learning modules, in Athens, but this did not prove possible. However, C-DL understands that C-EBLM is continuing with the preparation of modules in their field.

7. The commissioning of webinar development on topics recommended by National Societies and, where appropriate, identification of relevant presentations from IFCC and National Society conferences for recording to populate the eAcademy continues.

8. Liaison with IFCC Office to obtain permission from authors to upload their work onto the IFCC website continues.

- Number of published e-module webinars: 118
- Number of webinars pending publication: 3

9. With the appointment of Eduardo Freggiaro as the new Chair of C-IeL, more focus has been put to provide learning objectives and multiple choice questions for published webinars for which these were not originally provided. This comprehensive task is currently being undertaken by C-DL and C-IeL members and IFCC experts. This exercise will enable the next phase of the e-Academy to be successfully launched.

9.02.11 Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (C-EUBD)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Garry John	Chair	UK	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	
E. English	Member	UK	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	
R. Erasmus	Member	ZA	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	
D. Sacks	Member	US	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	
C. Weykamp	Member	NL	1st	2016 01 - 2018 12	

1. Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect discussions at the first meeting of the committee in Madrid.

2. Committee members are finalizing the WHO ‘Compendium of diagnostic tests associated with diabetes’. Completion of this will be accelerated in line with recent WHO announcements on the global diabetes epidemic. This will be published as a joint WHO/IFCC document. Hopefully, final agreement on content will be achieved before the

end of 2017.

3. The results of the joint IFCC, WHO and IDF worldwide questionnaire on use of glucose and HbA1c testing will be finalized and submitted for publication. Telephone conversations are now required to finalize the questionnaire.

4. The committee will collaborate in a project to look at the diagnostic cut-points for type 2 diabetes diagnosis using HbA1c. Currently, there is representation from IFCC, IDF and ACB. Further links will be developed with ADA and EASD and an evidence gathering project launched. The team is in the process of culling papers identified from the searches into papers for full review. The services of Cornell University Library are being used.

5. A project to investigate a European wide evaluation of HbA1c EQA programmes in different countries using fresh whole blood and lyophilised samples with the aim of being able to evaluate cross National network performance has been completed successfully. The outcome can be used to educate users on the analytical variability of HbA1c measurements. The results were presented in the satellite symposium on diabetes held at the end of the Athens EuroMedLab Congress in June 2017.

6. Members of the C-EUBD were part of the Scientific Committee for a satellite symposium on diabetes held at the end of the Athens EuroMedLab Congress in June 2017: 2 days "Satellite Meeting Diabetes" (15/16-June-2017, Athens)

7. Committee members will work with National societies and with manufacturers to deliver educational meetings in countries that would benefit from scientific updates; this year educational meetings were held in South America, India and China and also in South Africa for delegates from Ethiopia and Kenya.

8. IFCC WorldLab Satellite Meeting - Biomarkers for Diabetes. Thu/Fri 26/27-Oct-2017 Cape Town, ZA; C-EUBD members are part of the International Scientific Committee of the Satellite Meeting chaired by David Sacks)

Actions	Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
Action 3	<p>Clarify with Garry JOHN where "white" paper on HbA1c/NGSP was published; [related, but "info only": similar concept could be useful for TF-CKD (eGFR) → no longer MDRD but KDIGO/ CKD-EPI Crea; chair: Flavio ALCANTARA]</p> <p>Prof Garry Jones sent the slides of the 2007 and 2010 Consensus statements. The 2007 recommended the use of eAG (published before results of ADAG study) while the 2010 statement recommended not to use eAG.</p>	SC	Jan-2018	closed

9.03.08 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Laura Sciacovelli	Chair	Italy	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	

1. The following activity has been concluded:

- Updating of the Model of Quality Indicators on the basis of the findings of a Consensus Conference "Harmonization of quality indicators in Laboratory Medicine: two years later?" held in Padova (Italy) on 26th October 2016;
- A new entering procedure for Quality Indicators data inputting by laboratories in the dedicated website (www.ifcc-mqi.com).

2. The following activity is in progress:

Selection and appointment of a National Leader in each country who should coordinate and manage the Model of Quality Indicators project. It is expected that the National Leader should (i) encourage the use of MQI; (ii) "personalize" the use of QIs in daily practice according to national practices, requirements and regulations; (iii) cooperate with members of the WG-LEPS providing valuable suggestions for improving the project.

3. The following activity is in progress:

Involvement of national scientific societies, accreditation bodies and EQA/PT providers of different countries, as a means for disseminating the MQI project and promoting participation of laboratories.

4. The following activity is in progress:

Identification of automated and computerized systems for easy and systematic data collection and recording.

5. Invited talk entitled "Quality indicators in laboratory medicine" at MEDLAB EUROPE in Barcelona on 14th September 2017. Symposium 30min.

6. PUBLICATIONS

1. Sciacovelli L, Aita A, Plebani M. Extra-analytical quality indicators and laboratory performances. *Clin Biochem.* 2017 Jul;50(10-11):632-637.

2. Sciacovelli L, Panteghini M, Lippi G, Sumarac Z, Cadamuro J, Galoro CAO, Pino Castro IGD, Shcolnik W, Plebani M. Defining a roadmap for harmonizing quality indicators in Laboratory Medicine: a consensus statement on behalf of the IFCC Working Group "Laboratory Error and Patient Safety" and EFLM Task and Finish Group "Performance specifications for the extra-analytical phases". *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2017 Aug 28;55(10):1478-1488.

3. Plebani M, Sciacovelli L, Aita A. Quality Indicators for the Total Testing Process. *Clin Lab Med.* 2017 Mar;37(1):187-205.

4. Lippi G, Sciacovelli L, Simundic AM, Plebani M. Innovative software for recording preanalytical errors in accord with the IFCC quality indicators. *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2017 Mar 1;55(3):e51-e53.

5. Sciacovelli L, Lippi G, Sumarac Z, West J, Garcia Del Pino Castro I, Furtado Vieira K, Ivanov A, Plebani M; Working Group "Laboratory Errors and Patient

Safety” of International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Quality Indicators in Laboratory Medicine: the status of the progress of IFCC Working Group "Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety" project. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2017 Mar 1;55(3):348-357.

9.03.09 Cancer Genomics (WG-CG)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Jason Park (until 30Jun); ad interims: Paulo Fortina	Chair	US	1st	2015 1 - 2017 12	proposed new chair Eric Londin

1. Preparation of standards and regulations for genomic testing (next-generation sequencing) for publication, including recommendations for clinical laboratories performing genomic testing and bioinformatic analysis for oncology, is in progress

2. Preparation of standards and terminology specific to circulating nucleic acids (i.e., liquid biopsies, circulating tumor cells and cell free DNA) for publication is in progress.

3. The 4th meeting of the working group scheduled to be in conjunction with the IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017, South Africa has been cancelled following resignation of Jason Park on 30th June 2017 and cancellation of attendance of several members, including Paolo Fortina, Eric Londin and Peter Clark.

4. The IFCC EMD symposium entitled “Implementing Cancer Genomics in Low Resource Settings” to be held at the IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017, South Africa, has been amended as follows (Symposium 2h, Durban, 24-Oct-2017):

Chair: Larry J. Kricka (US)

- 1) Genomic medicine: learning how to walk before we run,
Speaker: Maurizio Ferrari
- 2) Pharmacogenetic applications in oncology
Speaker: R H N van Schaik
- 3) Advanced laboratory techniques for low resource
Speaker: L. Kricka (US)

5. At the VIII Baltic Transfusion Medicine Congress and the I Latvian Congress in Laboratory Medicine Congress held in Riga, Latvia, Paolo Fortina delivered two 30-min talks on “Technologies for Personalized Medicine” and “Clinical Applications of Cancer Molecular Biomarker” at 11th and 12th May 2017, respectively.

6. On 14th June 2017, a 30-min presentation entitled “Personalized Genomic Medicine Approaches in the Study of Cancer” was delivered by Paolo Fortina at the IFCC EMD Symposium “Personalized Medicine” held at the EuroMedLab 2017 in Athens.

7. PUBLICATION

Draft manuscript on Genome-wide variation analysis of pediatric malignancies is being finalized.

9.03.10 Harmonization of Interpretive Comments External Quality Assurance (WG-ICQA)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Samuel Vasikaran	Chair	AU	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	PROPOSED 2ND TERM

1. A workshop has been organized for the IFCC WorldLab, Durban.

Title of workshop (Durban, 24-Oct-2017): "Interpretation and Commenting on Clinical Chemistry Results: An interactive workshop"

Chair: Samuel Vasikaran

Speaker 1: Prof Eric Kilpatrick

Title of topic: Case presentation and discussion

Affiliation: Department of Pathology, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Doha, Qatar; Hull York Medical School, UK

Speaker 2: Dr Magdalena Turzyniecka

Title of topic: Case presentation and discussion

Affiliation: University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa

Speaker 3: Dr Ken Sikaris

Title of topic: Case presentation and discussion

Affiliation: Melbourne Pathology, Melbourne, Australia

2. A patient report comment EQA program in Africa, locally led, will be initiated in Durban during WorldLab. (Durban, 24-Oct-2017)

3. Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EFLM Working Group on Postanalytical Phase (WG-POST).

4. A meeting of the working group will be held in Durban, 23rd October 2017.

5. The working group plans to work with ISO in order to include quality assessment of interpretive commenting in ISO 15189.

9.04.02 Working Group on Flow Cytometry (WG-FC)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Ulrich Sack	Chair	DE	extra term	2017 01 - 2018 12	

1. One 5-day course was conducted in Europe in Munich from 18th till 22nd September 2017: "Cell Processing and Purification"

2. A 5-day winter school was held in St-Etienne/France (6th-10th March 2017): "Cell analysis in immunology"

3. One course was conducted in Montevideo/Uruguay sponsored by Beckman (29th -31st March 2017): "Novel Applications in Flow Cytometry for Clinical and Translational Research"

4. The webpage was reviewed and updated in 2017.
5. Ulrich Sack gave lectures in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, as an IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer.
6. The working group met in Athens during EuroMedLab 2017.

7. PUBLICATIONS

- Lambert C, Sack U.: Monocytes and macrophages in flow cytometry. *Cytometry B Clin Cytom.* 2017 May; 92(3):178-179.
- Lambert C, Preijers FWMB, Yanikkaya Demirel G, Sack U. Monocytes and macrophages in flow: an ESCCA initiative on advanced analyses of monocyte lineage using flow cytometry. *Cytometry B Clin Cytom.* 2017 May; 92(3):180-188.

Actions	Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
Actions 4	Clarify with U. SACK (and Becton Dickinson) whether EF could help in organizing a workshop for flow cytometry in Bangalore Dr U.Sack replied: "Elizabeth Frank is welcome to help with these activities. After EuroMedLab this year, she can organize the first meeting in India with Beckman Coulter, the main sponsor for these courses. This will also be discussed on December 4th when Prof Ulrich Sack meets Beckman officials for the planning of next year's activities."	SC	Dec-2017	Closed

9.04.03 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Egon Amann	Chair	DE	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	

1. A closed DQCML face-to-face working group meeting is planned for 23rd October 2017 during the IFCC WorldLab 2017 Congress in Durban.

2. An Open Session of the DQCML will be held during the IFCC WorldLab 2017 Congress on 23rd October 2017 to facilitate meeting National Representatives who may wish to seek the support of the Project for future Quality Systems initiatives.

3. DQCML engages and collaborates with Chairs of EMD Committees and the VLP Program by seeking their support in the delivery of Quality Systems initiatives and utilising when appropriate their expertise and resource in the delivery of programmes under the DQCML Project.

3.1 Risk management workshop: The possibilities of financial support (by industry or IFCC sources) of a series of workshops on risk management in laboratories planned by Elizabeth Frank at the IFCC WorldLab 2017 in Durban and, possibly, subsequently in Japan, India and maybe Malaysia was investigated by Egon Amann. Unfortunately, both Roche Diagnostics and Siemens Healthineers declined any financial support for these activities due to budget constraints.

3.2. Nepal: An e-mail proposal by Binod Yadav was received by Howard Morris asking for EQA materials and also for educational & logistic help in designing and conducting an EQA program in Nepal. This request was endorsed and delegated by Howard Morris to the EMD Executive Committee which then asked DQCML to follow through with the proposal. The program is certainly useful to improve laboratory quality topics in Nepal. The general idea is to ask the RCPA (and Tony Badrick, CEO RCPAQAP) for donations of suitable EQA materials. Dr. Renze Bais could contact / liaise with Tony Badrick asking for “free of charge” EQA materials, including expired ones. A similar, apparently successful EQA project, was previously conducted in Zambia which could serve as a model for Nepal. A “role & responsibility” chart was developed by Egon Amann, distributed to all parties involved and agreed upon by all.

Egon Amann sent a reminder to Binod Yadav on 6th September 2017 asking him how far the project has evolved in Nepal. Nepal was devastated recently by the worst floods and mudslides in a decade. The floods have delayed the start of the project. Binod Yadav and Renze Bais estimate that the EQA project may start in January 2018.

A formal request for financial support for any educational projects (i.e., visiting lecture program) related to the EQA project has not yet been received by DQCML.

3.3. Mexico: A request for funding from DQCML up to 3000 CHF was received from the National Federation of Clinical Chemistry CONAQUIC A. C. (National representative: M.C. Alejandra Anilben Cano Huizar). The funding request concerns a symposium to be held from 16-18 March, 2018, in Toluca, Mexico. Requested topics are: a) Laboratory Management, b) Reference intervals and c) Traceability and standardization. The lecturers requested were Jocelyn Hicks, Jean-Claude Forest, Janet Smith, Elizabeth Frank and Ken Sikaris who have all, with the exception of Ken Sikaris, declined the request to be speakers for varying reasons. The application form listed the number of participants who will be interacting with the visiting lecturers to be 1,500! The Proposal includes: 1 main lecture, 5 lectures, 1 symposium, 1 workshop conducted by the visiting lecturers.

Project status as of 6th September 2017: Egon Amann has asked Alejandra Anilben Cano Huizar to look for alternative speakers.

3.4. India: A project proposal entitled “IFCC supported training program on ISO 15189:2012 & analysis of proficiency testing” from Kolkata, India, was received by the IFCC Division Chair. Financial support was declined due to the fact that ISO 15189 training was supported previously in India.

Note: DQCML 2017 budget has not been claimed yet and is still available for suitable projects. Potentially this may change after the “Open session” in Durban.

9.04.04 IFCC Mentoring Programme (MENT)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Donald Young	Consultant	US	1st	2015 01 - 2017 12	PROPOSED NEW CHAIR G.BEASTALL

1. Expand number of Mentors and Associates: There are now 24 mentors enrolled, although not all are active. There are 45 Associates on file although several do not

actively participate. Expansion of both categories continues.

2. Recruitment of Spanish speakers as mentors: This has been completed with the help of Rosa Sierra Amor.

3. Facilitate accessibility of Experts: A proposal was presented to EMD in Athens to merge the 2 data bases "Mentoring Programme" and "Roster of Experts" into a single Working Group. This has subsequently been submitted to the EB.

4. The programme was promoted at EuroMedLab 2017 and attracted considerable interest which Prof Donald Young is continuing to follow up. Once the new WG merging the Mentoring and Experts programmes has been approved an article will be submitted to IFCC News explaining the benefits of both programmes.

5. Graham Beastall and Donald Young met in Athens to discuss the future direction of the mentoring programme.

6. Proposal to create WG-PS (Working Group for Personal Support)

Two activities currently aim at bringing members in contact with experts in a particular area of laboratory medicine:

- 1) Register of Experts (RoE); accessed currently through a searchable database located on EMD page of IFCC website.
- 2) IFCC Mentoring Programme for Developing Countries (Ment)

These activities are synergistic and, thus, the proposal to merge them into single program as a WG within EMD: Creation of WG for Personal Support (WG-PS) from January 2018, with Graham BEASTALL (UK) as Chair.

9.04.01 Abbott IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

DIV/FUNCTIONAL UNIT	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Elizabeth Frank	Chair				

Progress:

- So far 21 speakers in 11 countries have been approved and funded in 2017;
- An increase in the number of speakers might be achieved by reducing number of talks per VLP from 3 to 2 per lecturer.

7. EMD input for EB strategic plan

How to grant broadest access of EMD activities. Suggestions for future WG plans, e.g.

- 1 symposium or workshop per year
- Importance to collaborate with / early announcement to local host
- Increase number of publications; also need to mention IFCC support
- Continuous update of individual websites

8. EMD strategic plan

Details to be defined in a dedicated meeting on 18/19-Jan-2018 (Milan, Italy).

Additional aspects / unmet needs:

- a. Education: A common problem for developing countries mentioned by EF: access to expensive guidance documents (e.g. CLSI) that cost ~200 USD per access. Thus to be clarified whether simplified summaries could be made available and/or providing industrial sponsors.
- b. In general, 2 diverse needs: "education on / interpretation of guidelines" (in

strong focus of EMD) versus “writing guidelines” (out-of-focus for EMD)

9. EMD contributions to IFCC News

IFCC eNews May-June 2017

- page 19: Report on “2nd IDCC Latin American Flow Cytometry Course. Montevideo, Uruguay 29/31-March- 2017, U. SACK”

10. EMD sessions at IFCC congresses

- I. Implementing Cancer Genomics in low resource settings; Tue 24-Oct-2017, 9:00-11:00; Chair: L.J. Kricka (USA); EMD
 - a. Pharmacogenetic applications in oncology; Speaker: R H N van Schaik (NL)
 - b. Genomic medicine:learning how to walk before we run; Speaker: M. Ferrari (IT)
 - c. Advanced lab techniques for low resource; Speaker: L. Kricka (US)
- II. Risk Management and its utility in the clinical Laboratory; Mon 23-Oct-2017, 14:00-16:00; Chair: T.S. Pillay (ZA); P.K. Suraj (IN); IFCC/EMD-ABBOTT
 - a. How to prevent or minimize laboratory errors and nonconformists; Speaker: E.A. Frank (IN)
 - b. Managing risk within a robust quality framework; Speaker: S. Turner (NZ)
 - c. Assessing levels of risk; Speaker: S.Turner (NZ)
 - d. Developing an action plan following risk analysis; Speaker: S. Turner (NZ)
 - e. Corrective actions and Preventive actions; Speaker: TS Pillay (ZA)
 - f. Continual Improvement: How to prevent or minimize laboratory errors and nonconformist; Speaker: E.A.Frank (IN)
- III. Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine; a Global Perspective; Mon 23-Oct-2017, 14:00-16:00; Chair A.Zemlin (ZA); C-EBLM
 - a. What is EBLM and why do we need it?; Speaker: C.Florkowski (NZ)
 - b. Why do Guidelines vary so much and how do we recognize a good one?; Speaker: J.Wils (FR)
 - c. Global feedback on EBLM perceptions and requirements for training; Speaker: K.Rodriguez-Capote (CA)
 - d. Getting the EBLM message out to the world new resources.; Speaker: H.Fares-Taie (AR)
- IV. Improvement in clinical laboratory services: approaches to adding value. Wed 25-Oct-2017, 10:45-12:15; Chair Sedef Yenice (TR); C-CLM
 - a. From provider of the results to the contributor of value:Adding value to clinical laboratory services through the use of Six Sigma metrics; Speaker: E.Randell (CA)
 - b. Direct-to-Consumer Testing: Challenges with Lifestyle Tests; Speaker: M. Orth (DE)
 - c. Implementing value based laboratory testing; Speaker: A.Khine Womano (ZA)
- V. Interpreting and Commenting on Clinical Chemistry results. Tue 24-Oct-2017, 16:30-17:30; Chair Sam Vasikaran (AU); VLP+EMD Workshop
 - a. Case presentation and discussion; Speaker: E.Kilpatrick (UK)
 - b. Case presentation and discussion; Speaker: M.J. Turzyniecka (ZA)
 - c. Case presentation and discussion; Speaker: K. Sikaris (AU)

VI. Satellite Meeting - Biomarkers for Diabetes.
Thu/Fri 26/27-Oct-2017 Cape Town, ZA; C-EUBD members are part of the
International Scientific Committee of the Satellite Meeting)

11. Links with other Divisions

Collaboration with SD is already ongoing and likely to increase with following activities: molecular diagnostics (C-MD), e-learning, biomarkers in diabetes (WG-SIA/-HBA2).

12. Any other matters

a. Budget

Total Expenses 2017 proposed were 162 kCHF with projected actuals (End Nov) of 80 kCHF; thus a current underspend (50%). Lowest actuals at current: VLP 25%, CMBC 10% (no workshop this year), EC 25%

b. EB discussion on transforming Task Forces (TFs)

Overall trends:

- Task forces typically need to bring together different functions and skills (laboratorian, engineers, clinicians, chemists, biologists); thus TFs are optimally supported by the various Divisions (rather than directly by EB). The EB has decided that most of the task forces would become committees under the divisions with the exception of TF-Ethics, TF for Young Scientists and Working Group on Troponin I which will continue under the EB);
- EB task force on Pharmacogenetics (TF-PG) will come under the SD.
- New division ETD (Emerging Technologies Division) will be formed
 - Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM) will be under the new ETD.
- Implications for EMD:
 - Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT); will be a committee under the EMD
 - Task Force on Point of Care Testing (TF-POCT) will be a committee under EMD.
 - Task Force on chronic kidney disease (TF-CKD): is working jointly with WASPaLM and will be a committee under C-EMD.
 - Task Force on Cardiac Biomarkers (TF-CB), except for the working group on Troponin I, will be under the EMD as a new committee.

c. 2017 EMD Functional units time in office

The following members have been proposed to the EB for a second term:

- EMD-EC: Leslie LAI (MY), Chair
- C-EBLM: Julien WILS (FR); Member
- C-CLM: Matthias ORTH (DE); Member
- WG-ICQA: Samuel VASIKARAN (AU); Chair

The following have been proposed to the EB as Chairs for a first term from January 2018

- C- EBLM: Annalise ZEMLIN (ZA)
- C-DL: Loralie LANGMAN (USA)
- WG-PS: Graham BEASTALL (UK)

d. Working Group on Cancer Genomics

- This Working Group will be terminated at the end of 2017.

e. Other action items

Actions	Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
Action 5	Clarify with Graham BEASTALL/Howard MORRIS on educational CLSI activities	EF	Jan-2018	Done; HM now liaison WHO/CLSI
Action 6	Harmonize EMD Strategic Plan with SWOT analysis of EB (see Agenda, 2.)	EMD-EC	Strategic Plan meeting 18/19-Jan-2018	open
Action 7	Access of developing countries to guidance documents (e.g. CLSI; per access ~180 USD): to clarify whether simplified summaries could be arranged with CLSI (or sponsors to some content)	EMD-EC	Strategic Plan meeting 18/19-Jan-2018	open
Action 8	Clarify with Maurizio FERRARI (President) the status of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EFLM "Postanalytical Phase" – in analogy to MoU of pre-analytical phase (PMID 28593910)	LL	Oct-2017	open

13. Date and location of future IFCC congresses

See also <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/>

- a. EuroMedLab
 - 2019: Barcelona (Spain), 19/23-May
 - 2021: Munich (Germany), 16/21-May
- b. WorldLab
 - 2020: Seoul (Korea), 24/28-May
- c. Bergmeyer conference
 - None in 2018

14. Date of next EMD meeting

18 and 19 January 2018 in Milan

Minutes prepared by André Ziegler.