

# **Chapter 13**

## **Task Forces and Special Projects**



## 13.1 Task Forces

### 13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

#### Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
N. Fink	Chair	AR	1 <sup>st</sup>	2018 01 - 2020 12
L. Breimer	Member	SE	1 <sup>st</sup>	2017 03 - 2019 12
T. Higgins	Member	CA	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2017 01 - 2019 12
C. Sekadde-Kigonde	Member	KE	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2017 01 - 2019 12
<i>To be nominated</i>	<i>Member</i>			
D. Bruns	Consultant	US		
J. Jonsson	Consultant	IS		

#### Aims:

- To increase awareness among Laboratory Medicine Professionals of ethical issues
- To encourage the practice of Laboratory Medicine to the highest ethical standards
- To develop position papers on appropriate ethics policies issues
- To provide a voice for Laboratory Medicine on ethics policies
- To link Laboratory Medicine, ethics and the public interest.

#### Objectives:

- Recognising that IFCC is formed by representatives from Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in more than 90 countries plus more than 40 corporate members, it is unlikely that position papers will have the complete agreement of all of our members. They are position papers and should not be put to a vote. The objective is to produce a statement with widespread support from the members of the Federation
- A secondary objective is to ensure that each paper is published in professional journal(s) and that it is also made available to the general public.

#### Background:

During the term 1997-1999, the EB of the IFCC accepted the principle of establishing an Ethics Committee. It was identified that the greatest need was not for a Committee that would look inwardly at personal and professional ethics or codes of behaviour, since these can best be dealt with at the level of the individual society or country. During the past 20 years there has been an increasing number of pre-symptomatic tests that can be offered to the community. Some of the challenges have been in laboratory organisation and testing but these are minor compared to broader issues affecting those targeted for screening and the general community. DNA testing combined with newer genetic and biochemical techniques raise significant issues of community awareness, education, informed consent and pre- and post-test counselling. The genetic information stored and used must also have safeguards that ensure there are no stigmatisation and discrimination issues. In various parts of the world individual professional organisations have raised awareness of these issues among their members and have produced documents addressing some of the key issues. In general, the Laboratory Medicine community has not provided organised discussion in which the members can actively participate. There has been even less effort at the international level to create a collective voice for Laboratory Medicine. Laboratory Medicine organisations have a goal and responsibility to advance the interest of their members but the IFCC strategic vision also clearly states that the ultimate goal is to benefit the health and well-being of the patients and communities we serve. This test of our professional responsibility demands that we do not simply perform tests and use technology uncritically. We cannot be isolated from the impact of our work on society.

## List of Addresses:

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## 13.1.6 IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

### Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
P. Kumar Dabla	Chair	IN	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2017 01 - 2019 12
G. Boursier	Member	FR	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2017 01 - 2019 12
S. Fares Taie	Member	AR	1 <sup>st</sup>	2016 03 - 2018 12
D. Li	Member	US	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2016 01 - 2018 12
O. Popoola	Member	NG	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2016 01 - 2018 12
M. Savkovic	Member	SRB	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2016 01 - 2018 12
D. Gruson	Consultant	BE		

### Aim

The aim of TF-YS is to ensure that young scientists make a significant and growing contribution to the activities of IFCC and to the promotion of laboratory medicine at the centre of healthcare.

### Objectives

- To identify young scientists amongst IFCC Full and Corporate Members
- To use modern information technology to establish formal and informal networks to facilitate the communication between young scientists who are involved in laboratory medicine.
- To link with national society young scientist initiatives.
- To encourage young scientists to share experience of laboratory medicine and other healthcare practice around the world

- To disseminate and promote innovation and high quality scientific and clinical practice standards
- To facilitate opportunities for young scientists to train in modern, state of the art laboratory practice
- To enable young scientists to participate in scientific, clinical and educational meetings and other learning sessions
- To encourage young scientists to participate in national and international programmes to promote the essential contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare
- To make young scientists aware of the existence and role of IFCC and to encourage their participation in IFCC activities
- To assure the future of IFCC through the identification of young scientists who may develop into future experts capable of leading IFCC Divisions, Committees and Working Groups and becoming IFCC Officers

### **Delivery**

- For the purposes of definition, a young scientist is a medical or science graduate working or training in laboratory medicine. He/she will normally be aged less than 40y at the time of appointment to work with TF-YS. The term of office of any young scientist involved with TF-YS is three years with renewal for a maximum of one further three-year term of office.
- TF-YS will comprise a Chair and, normally, a maximum of four other core members. Core membership of TF-YS will ensure geographical representation and linkage to national societies that have experience of working with young scientists. TF-YS will also have an extensive number of corresponding members. All IFCC Full Members and Corporate Members will be invited to nominate young scientists to serve as core or corresponding members of TF-YS. Membership of TF-YS will be confirmed by the IFCC Executive Board on the recommendation of the TF-YS Chair.
- TF-YS will communicate mainly through modern electronic and social networking media. Communication will include all core and corresponding members of TF-YS and may develop into other networks as agreed by TF-YS.
- TF-YS may organise regular workshops for young scientists within the framework of existing IFCC international or regional meetings. With the permission from the organisers TF-YS may also hold occasional workshops within national society or specialist society meetings. No expenses will be paid by IFCC for attendance at these workshops.
- TF-YS will be able to communicate with and request support from other IFCC functional units.

### **Accountability**

The TF-YS will report directly to the IFCC Executive Board. A nominated member of the Executive Board will act as a liaison person for TF-YS. The TF-YS will prepare an update report for each meeting of the Executive Board and may contact the Board, through the designated liaison person, at other times. Any additional finance raised by TF-YS will be accounted for through normal IFCC accounting procedures and will be subject to financial audit.

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## 13.2. IFCC Professional Exchange Programme (PEP)

IFCC offers a small number of scholarships each year to facilitate professional exchange programmes for young scientists. The purpose of professional exchange programmes is to:

- Promote international co-operation between laboratories
- Facilitate the exchange of young laboratory scientists between IFCC Member societies
- Share high level scientific or management skills
- Introduce new or improved scientific or management skills to the applicant's laboratory.

Applicants for an IFCC professional exchange programme will:

- be a member of an IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society
- be aged under 40 years at the time of the exchange programme
- have a specific project to complete in a designated host laboratory
- not have received funding from IFCC for other PEPs.

Applications must have the support of both partner laboratories.  
Duration of exchanges: 3 months maximum.

Successful applicants will be entitled to receive economy return travel expenses from his/her home base to the host laboratory and a subsistence allowance for a maximum of three months.

At the completion of a professional exchange programme the successful applicant is required to:

- Write a short report of his/her experience for publication in IFCC News.
- Where appropriate, submit a scientific paper for publication in the electronic journal of IFCC.

These exchange programmes are open for laboratories in all countries where an IFCC member society is active.

For complete details of these programmes and how to apply for participation, please visit the IFCC website at: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/pep-professional-exchange-programme/>.

IFCC has developed two categories of professional exchange programme:

- Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)
- Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP).

### **13.2.1. Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)**

The purpose of a PSEP is to exchange or develop high level scientific information or skills.

Applications for a PSEP may come from any IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society.

Examples of suitable PSEP projects include (but are not restricted to):

- Conduct of a collaborative research project between base and host laboratories;
- Use of a method or technique not available in the base laboratory in order to complete a research project;
- Learning a new method or technique in the host laboratory which will be introduced into the base laboratory after the PSEP is complete;
- Completion of a collaborative evidence-based scientific project such as the preparation of a systematic review;

Scientific publications resulting from this exchange programme have to acknowledge IFCC's support.

### **13.2.2. Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP)**

The purpose of a PMEP is to develop appropriate quality management skills in order to improve the performance and quality of service offered to patients by the base laboratory.

Applications for a Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP) may only come from IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national societies that are in countries where quality management and/or laboratory accreditation are at an early stage of development.

Examples of PMEP include:

- Acquiring skills to introduce effective internal quality control;
- Acquiring skills to introduce an external quality assurance scheme to a country;
- Acquiring skills to introduce quality management to the base laboratory;
- Preparation to enable the base laboratory to apply for laboratory accreditation in line with ISO Standard 15189.

The host laboratory for a PMEP will normally be in the same IFCC Region as the applicant.

### 13.3. IFCC Travel Scholarships

IFCC-Roche travel scholarships are available to allow young scientists from developing countries to participate in relevant international scientific congresses and conferences. Applicants should be working in a developing country member of IFCC and should be less than 40y of age on 1 January of the year in which the congress or conference occurs. Priority will be given to applicants who are submitting an abstract to the meeting. IFCC-Roche travel scholarships may be used for any relevant international scientific congress or conference. Each year IFCC promotes the scheme and lists some IFCC meetings that do qualify, but this list is not exclusive. It is a condition of the scheme that the congress or conference should take place in a country other than that in which the applicant works.

The IFCC-Roche travel scholarships will provide funding towards the cost of economy travel and accommodation. IFCC will seek to ensure that scholarship recipients receive free registration for the congress or conference that they attend.

Applicants will be required to complete the application form that can be obtained from the IFCC Office ([ifcc@ifcc.org](mailto:ifcc@ifcc.org)). The completed application should be submitted, together with supporting information, to the IFCC Office.

IFCC acknowledges the generous sponsorship from Roche Diagnostics GmbH for this scheme.

Additionally, IFCC is able to offer one other travel scholarship that follow the same rules as specified above:

- Jocelyn Hicks travel scholarship