

Meeting of the 138th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board, May 19, 24-25, 2019

Minutes

The 138th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in Barcelona, Spain at the Barcelona Princess Hotel.

Participants:

EB Members

Maurizio Ferrari	(MF)	Past-President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	Treasurer
Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporates Representative (Roche)

IFCC Regional Federation Representatives

Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
Sunil Sethi	(SSE)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)
Sverre Sandberg	(SSA)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM)
Rosa Sierra-Amor	(RSA)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Ann Gronowski	(AG)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

Invited guest to specific sessions:

Leslie Lai	(LL)	EMD Chair
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1.0 Preliminaries

- 1.0 A moment of silence in tribute to Howard was held on May 19.
- 1.0 Apologies for absence
SSE, SSA and AG were not able to attending the EMD review on May 19.
- 1.0 Opening remarks
MF reviewed the plan for the Congress opening and Howard's memorial.
- 1.1.137 Minutes of 137th EB Meeting, Hammamet, Tunisia, February 2-4, 2019
The Full Minutes and the Summary Minutes from the 137th Meeting were approved for circulation to the EB and posting on the IFCC Website.

Action List from 137th EB Meeting

The Action List from 137th EB Meeting was reviewed. Items were addressed or included elsewhere in the agenda.

Strategic Plan:

Review of the IFCC Executive Board Strategic Plan was deferred to the next EB meeting.

Area A: Supporting our Membership

No.	Strategic Action	
1	a) Integration of educational programs b) Continue to publicize educational resources available from IFCC c) Work with National Members and Federations to make better use of the educational resources available from IFCC d) Continue to promote communication between National Members and Federations and coordinate activities. e) Continue to develop and present a series of webinars to meet the needs of Members.	CPD CPD EB, Reg Fed Reps, NS representatives EB, Reg Fed Reps, NS representatives CPD
2	a) Maintain and improve communication with COLABIOCLI and Members in Latin America, as required. b) Maintain and improve communication with AFCB and Members in Arab countries, as required. c) Maintain and improve communication with AFCC and Members in African countries, as required. d) Maintain and improve communication with EFLM and Members in the European countries, as required. e) Maintain and improve communication with APFCB and Members in the Asia-Pacific countries, as required. f) Maintain and improve communication with NAFCC and Members in the North American countries, as required.	RSA / COLABIOCLI AH / AFCB AO / AFCC SSA / EFLM SSE / APFCB AG / NAFCC.
3	Conduct a survey of Young Scientists, sex, geography and corporate membership active in IFCC functional groups, and develop a plan to address any disparities.	DK / CPD
4	Establish a Task Force, chaired and made up of Corporate Members, to identify and prioritize their needs, and possible projects, along with recommended membership. Assign to appropriate Division.	RH / Corp Mem reps within Divisions/ Divisional Exec Cttee's EC.
5	Promote to Corporate Members the use of the IFCC Registry of Experts.	RH / Corp Mem reps within Divisions

Area B: Broadening Our Horizons

No	Strategic Action	
6	To translate the principles of metrology to one new project each year in areas of laboratory medicine other than clinical chemistry.	P Gillery, SD
7	Establish at least one new collaboration each year with an international clinical organisation. An international scientific association, the European Society for Clinical Cell Analysis (ESCCA, President Anna Konstanti), is interested to join IFCC.	SD to identify projects and relevant clinical organizations and send EB their priorities. EB will then help to contact clinical organizations.
8	Invite organisations from outside laboratory medicine to contribute to the IFCC meetings to promote better interaction with healthcare professionals.	RH
9	Reach out to LIS vendors to collaborate on symposia presentations and development guidelines and standards of practice. Identify possible projects to standardize and harmonize post analytical LIS processes. Encourage IFCC Corporate membership.	SSE / Robert Flatman
10	Explore the use of electronic meetings by IFCC functional groups. CPD to Investigate suitable technologies	CPD.

11	Explore the potential evolution of congress format to include electronic participation.	JW, C-CC.
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Area C: Improving the Quality of Laboratory Medicine

No.	Strategic Action	
12	In conjunction with others develop resources to facilitate laboratory accreditation for developing countries	EMD, DQCLM / ASLM.
13a	Promote research demonstrating value of laboratory medicine.	EMD (C-VPLM).
13b	Leverage research in 13a to promote awareness of the IFCC and the value of lab medicine.	DK/CPD
14	Strengthen the links and collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)	SSA

Area D: Improving the Effectiveness of IFCC

No.	Strategic Action	
15	Performance evaluation of functional units including EB including holding annual meetings with Division Chairs	DK, SSA and RH
16	Develop a new fee structure and implementation plan for Affiliate members	MF, TO
17	Review and revise Strategic Plan mid-year 2019	EB

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

An application was expected but has not yet been received from the Myanmar Medical Technologist Association. No other applications have been received.

2.3 Annual Dues for Full Members

No payment has been received from Belarus since they joined. EB members will follow up on outstanding dues.

3.0 Corporate Members

Report from the Corporate Members Representative

RH noted that for the Athens meeting 73% of delegates were sponsored by industry. For the Barcelona meeting only 46% were sponsored by industry and many of these may be company employees. It is unknown how many of the self-registered delegates were funded by contributions made to hospitals/institutions by industry. The good news is that the MedTech Code did not decrease attendance for Barcelona, while it has had a negative impact on other conferences. There is a suspicion that not all companies and distributors are following the MedTech Code rules. It will be informative to see the results of the congress survey from Barcelona. RH noted that ETD committees and WGs have at least one full corporate member. There is an open position on the POCT committee.

4.0 Affiliate Members

4.4 Annual Dues for Affiliate Memberships

A request will go to Council asking for delegation of authority for the EB to set the dues for the Affiliate members. The EB plan is to have Affiliate members pay a 50% discounted rate based on the number of members, but no higher than the Full member. Affiliate members will be asked to provide the number of members. Those who do not provide the information will be charged the same rate as the Full member.

5.0 Regional Organisations

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

SSE provided a written report.

5.2 Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

RSA provided a written report.

RSA is following up on the World Radio proposal and has a report that she will share with the Board. She will also resend the user statistics for EI Microscopio. There are still a number of questions and issues to sort out with Africa and EI Microscopio regarding the specifics of the plan to form a joint World Radio. There is some urgency to this issue as the IFCC is only committed to supporting EI Microscopio for this current year.

5.4 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
SSA reported that the EFLM is very pleased with the preparations in place for the Barcelona Congress and expect an excellent and successful congress.

5.5 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

AH provided a written report.

The follow up to the Mediterranean meeting is a congress between AFCB and EFLM as the major partners, with IFCC as a participant only – there is no financial risk or commitment.

The Francophone Society is no longer involved. There was some confusion as to the role of IFCC. MF explained that IFCC is represented but is not a partner.

5.6 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

ABO provided a written report.

5.7 North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)

AG reminded all of the AACC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, August 4-8, 2019. AG will work with the AACC Office to arrange one meeting in Anaheim for the IFCC, NAFCC, CSCC and AACC, if possible. AG confirmed that new IFCC/NAFCC Agreement was signed with no changes from the original agreement.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

Nothing to report at this time. Deferred to the next meeting.

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

MF will follow up with WASPaLM regarding replacement speaker(s) for HM. DK and RH will investigate a possible speaker on the value of laboratory screening.

6.22 Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)

The draft MoU with BIPM is not available yet. DK will follow up

JCTLM provided a written update. DK will ask Ian if there is anything that he needs from the EB.

6.50 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

RSA attended the ILAC meeting in Mexico on behalf of the IFCC. It was valuable to make them more aware of the IFCC and it would be valuable to maintain contact with this group.

The meeting next year is in Europe and we consider sending someone again.

Other matters:

SSE has stepped down from the Consensus Position Initiative addressing global standards in measuring lipids with IAS, EAS and EFLM.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)

Seoul, May 24-28, 2020

The program is nearly in place. SSE will replace HM on the COC. DK/MF to advise James Wesenberg and the COC Chair. The IFCC Office will confirm that invitations have been sent to the speakers. RSA is concerned that there is no representation from AFCB, COLABOCLI and AFCC. MF, RSA, TO and AH will review the guidelines for WorldLab and recommend appropriate Federation participation. The WorldLab guidelines in general will be discussed at the next EB meeting.

Selected Symposia:

1. EB: "Use of Big Data to Improve Health"
2. CPD: "A New Era in Medical Laboratory Diagnostics Management: Application of Advanced Mobile & Web Technology"
3. EMD: "Achieving Healthcare Excellence: the UNIVANTS Awards 2019"
4. ETD: "Emerging technologies: new trends and Clinical applications"

5. SD: "The future of standardization in Laboratory Medicine: challenges and opportunities"
 - 7.2.25 IFCC WorldLab 2023, Rome (IT):
Rome, May 21-25, 2023
The EuroMedLab rules will apply to this congress.
 - 7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
 - 7.3.1.15 Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - APFCB
APFCB India, 2019
Jaipur – Rajasthan, 17-20 November 2019
Selected Symposia:
 1. EMD: "The Liquid Biopsy approach: Following the tumor in peripheral blood"
 2. ETD: "E Health tools/ Digital tools / Machine learning"
 - 7.3.2.24 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - EFLM
EuroMedLab 2019, Barcelona (ES)
Barcelona, May 19-23, 2019
MF reported that all the data points toward a very successful congress.
 - 7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)
Munich, May 16-20, 2021
RH will replace HM on the COC. MF/DK will email James Wesenberg and the COC Chair, Michael Neumaier.
 - 7.3.4.24 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI
COLABIOCLI Panama, 2019
Panama, September 10-13, 2019
Selected Symposia:
 1. IFCC SD - Quality Considerations for Molecular Diagnostics
 2. IFCC EMD - Haemoglobin A1c: a measurement that continues to evolve
 - 7.3.6.15 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology – AFCB
Joint IFCC, EFLM and AFCB Tunisia 2020 meeting
Beirut 2021 meeting
 - 7.3.7.5 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) Congress
Marrakech, September 26-28, 2019 Congress
Proposed IFCC Symposia:
 1. IFCC SD: "Success and challenges in the standardization of laboratory tests";
 2. IFCC EMD: "Verification of Laboratory Test Results in the Core Lab: Exploring effectiveness from the ground up"
 - 7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences
 - 7.4.1.16 Roche Bergmeyer Conference
No further update at this time. We will drop this item for now.
 - 7.4.9 IFCC-Abbott Turning Science into Caring (TSIC)
No further update at this time. We will drop this item for now.
 - 7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices
Revision to C-CCC document on criteria for granting Auspices
There was discussion on whether the IFFC should only give Auspices to meetings if they have MedTech CVS compliance. DK will follow up with James Wesenberg to determining what the process is now and consider this possibility.
 - 7.9.13 IFCC General Conference:
The next GC should be in fall of 2021. This will be discussed with the President Elect at the first EB meeting of 2020.
- 8.0 Scientific Division (SD) (pending possible SD Chair's requests/updates)**
- 8.1 SD Executive Committee
DK will work with Office to get a letter to the Division Chairs regarding Young Scientist membership, and at same time ask for the current number of young scientists.
 - 8.2 SD Committees
 - 8.16 International Consortium for Harmonization of Clinical Laboratory Results (ICHCLR)

SSA will replace HM on ICHCLR. DK will advise the Chair.

8.40. Other Business

PG will be attending the BIPM meeting and the Consultative Committee for Units meeting. The SD has submitted a program for a Workshop after the Seoul Congress. The Workshop will be funded by corporate sponsors with no cost to the Congress or IFCC. MF to ask the Seoul COC and Scientific Committee if they have any concern with this.

GB will replace HM on NPU representing IFCC, for the time being.

MF suggests that there needs to be more communication between EFLM and IFCC functional groups to avoid overlap. Possible solutions might be meetings between the Division Directors. PG and Eric Kilpatrick from EFLM do meet. It was also suggested that this could be an issue for all Federations. RH mentioned that this was also a concern mentioned at the TF-CM.

The EB approved the new WG-CGM, with the Chair Guido Freckmann, from Uhlm University. The primary focus of this WG will be traceability for Time in Range (TIR), a new biomarker for glycaemic control with better short term management. DK to notify Philippe.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

LL met with the EB to review the EMD operations and identify any areas where the EB can provide assistance.

9.2.12 Committee on Cardiac Biomarkers (C-CB)

Discussion with Fred Apple regarding sponsorship contracts.

Fred Apple met with the EB and explained that the initial agreements for the Score Card

11.00 Emerging Technology Division (ETD)

11.2 ETD Committees

It was noted that there are more than one member from the same country on the same committees and working groups, but this is not currently against the rules.

11.2.1 Committee for Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (C-ETPLM) (ex Task Force on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM – 13.01.02)

The TF-PLM has plans for a satellite in Seoul. The EB will ask for updates as they proceed.

11.2.2 Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM)

It was acknowledged that this committee has done a good job of creating a broad awareness of this issue through a number of presentations. The question now is, what is the plan to focus efforts to address the areas that impact lab medicine and perhaps only a few of those issues. MF/DK will follow up with Sergio and a meeting will be arranged for Jaipur.

11.2.4 Committee for Omics Translations (C-OT)

The EB is looking for more information on specific actions from this committee, MF/DK will follow up with Sergio and a meeting will be arranged for Jaipur.

11.3 ETD Working Groups

The EB approved the volatilomics WG.

The EB approved the genetics WG.

12.0 IFCC Awards

All award names have been changed to list IFCC first.

12.1.1 IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (sponsor Yashraj Biotech Ltd.)

Support has been received.

12.1.2 IFCC Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service (Siemens)

MF will meet with sponsor in Barcelona.

12.1.3 IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education (Abbott Diagnostics)

The agreement has been finalized.

12.1.4 IFCC Abbott Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics (Abbott Molecular)

The agreement has been finalized.

12.1.5 Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (Sekisui Diagnostics)

We are waiting for information from the sponsor.

- 12.1.6 IFCC Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine (NIST-CLSI)
Support is expected at the end of 2019.
- 12.1.8 IFCC Distinguished Award for Contributions to Cardiovascular Diagnostics (Hytest)
Support is expect to be received in 2020.
- 12.1.9 Gérard Siest-Biologie Prospective Award (Stabiligen)
Financing with Company is confirmed and the call for nominations can go out.
- 12.1.10 IFCC-Distinguished Women Scientist Award for Contributions to in vitro Diagnostics (Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd-new 2020)
Support has been received.

13.0 Special Projects and Task Forces

- 13.1.12 Special Project on History
MF and DK met with Mathias Müller regarding the material the collection of archived IFCC records at the IFCC Office. Mathias was aware of the records and has reviewed all material and summarized the content in a previous report. Mathias and Bernard Gouget will meet in Milan in July to verify the contents of the boxes, confirm disposal, and work on a document for the history of IFCC up to 2020. The goal is to have the report completed by the Jaipur Congress.
The History Project will be discussed at a future meeting.
- 13.2 Professional Exchange Programmes
We are not getting any requests for PEP funding. It was suggested to advertise more, including e-News, and to have a list of labs who are willing to take people. The EFLM has a list and has asked all members to solicit labs from their organizations. AG and SSA will advertise on their ListServes and webpages. AG to advertise for labs that could participate.
- 13.3 Roche Travel Scholarships
The Roche agreement specifies that scholarships can only be awarded for meeting/congresses that are MedTech Code compliant. This could be a concern for some of our congresses that are not yet MedTech compliant and efforts will be made with the C-CC to address this. DK/MF will discuss this with James Wesenberg. We can also continue to look at ways to provide more scholarships for our members with needs. TO will prepare a recommendation. The IFCC will also award 5 scholarships for each meeting. The Office will check the costs and suggest the amount. The IFCC President, Secretary, Treasurer and C-CC Chair will select the successful recipients. The COC of each meeting will be asked to waive the registration fee for scholarship recipients. A plan will be developed for how to award these IFCC scholarships. We should open the call as soon as possible for Jaipur, Panama, and Marrakech.
- 13.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)
The TF-CM had its first meeting in Barcelona. MF and other EB members attended the open portion of the meeting. Joe Passarelli is the Chair and there are 7 corporate members including RH (representing the EB). The formation of this TF addresses one of the goals of the EB Strategic Plan, to encourage corporate involvement and opportunities for involvement in IFCC.

15.0 Financial Matters

TO reviewed the current income and expense summary and no issues were identified. The final audited report for the 2018 fiscal year has been received.

16.0 Organisational Matters

- 16.3 Procedures Manual
Update on progress with revision of Procedures Manual.
DK is working with MF on revisions to the Procedures Manual, including suggestions made by the EB. Appropriate sections will be sent to EB members for review and suggested updates.
- 16.40 Other business:

Discussion regarding the succession plan for position of President.

The EB agreed that MF and DK will manage the President's business until a new President is named.

The EB agreed to make the following recommend to Council:

MF will assume the role of IFCC President upon ratification by the Council.

Elections for President-Elect will be held as planned. Candidates will be informed that if elected they will be invited to attend the Meeting in Jaipur, India in the capacity of observer. The successful candidate will assume the role of President-Elect in January 2020.

The President-Elect will transition into the role of President during the 2020 year at a date mutually agreed upon between the EB and the President-Elect.

MF will remain on the EB until the end of 2020. (According to the statutes: The vacant position of past president from 2021 will be addressed by the EB in 2020.)

The EB will request that the Council consider this recommendation and indicate their support, or not, for this recommendation through an electronic voting set up from June 1st to June 30th.

The EB agreed that the President Elect will be encouraged to take over as President within 6 months or as soon as they feel able to do so, ideally in 2020.

PB and DK (with input from Mauro) are working on the IFCC policy/procedures for GDPR compliance and will review with the EB.

Other Business

PB will investigate how to set up an IFCC email address for the IFCC President to use for IFCC business.

A statement will be added to the on-boarding letter that advises new officers that they must comply with the IFCC policy on conflict of interest, and they are responsible to purchase their own medical insurance, but are provided a fixed amount of funds for each expense claim to cover the cost.

18. IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)

The FEN has received some additional funding which is sufficient to continue in 2019. They are going to address membership at their next meeting, in July.

19.0 Meetings

19.1.24 Seoul, 2020: 24-28 May, 2020

19.6 General Conference: Planned for 2021

19.80 Executive Board Meetings 2019

Jaipur, 21-23 November 2019 (after APFCB Congress, 17-20 Nov).

Jaipur EB will start on Nov 20 after the APFCB Congress, continuing all day on Nov 21 and finishing on Nov 22 so members can depart on Nov 23.

Meetings with Divisions' Chairs:

November 20 – Jaipur: CPD and ETD. To be scheduled during the congress with the Division Chairs and those EB members that are available.

Executive Board Meetings 2020.

Milan: Potentially Feb 27, 28 and 29, Seoul: Potentially May 28, 29 and 30