

Meeting of the EMD Executive Committee

XXIII IFCC-EFLM EuroMedlab, Barcelona, SPAIN

CCIB (Centre de Convenciones Internacional de Barcelona), Pl. Willy Brandt

Saturday, May 18th 2019: 9.00-17.00 – Room M218

Sunday, May 19th 2019: 10.30-17.00 – Room M219

MINUTES prepared by Andre Ziegler, Secretary



Participants, EMD-EC:

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Leslie Lai (LL)	Chair	MY	2nd	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Nader Rifai (NR)	Member & VLP Chair	US	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Vanessa Steenkamp (VS)	Member	ZA	1st	2018 06 - 2020 12	
Ana Leticia Maselli (ALM)	Member	GT	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	APOLOGIES
André Ziegler (AZ)	Corp Rep & Secretary	CH	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Silvia Cardinale (SC)	IFCC Office				

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1. Welcome and introductions

- LL welcomed all present participants. The EMD mourns the loss of Howard Morris. At the opening ceremony of EuroMedLab 2019 there will be a tribute to the memory of Howard Morris and his contributions to IFCC.

2. Notification of other business and finalisation of the agenda

- Nothing added

3. Review of Minutes of EMD-EC meeting - Budapest, November 2018

3.1. IFCC EMD-EC Mins 2018-11 (Budapest)

- Minutes have been accepted and circulated.

4. Report from Executive Board

4.1. Summary minutes of the EB 2019-2 (Hammamet)

- Action (SC): Typo to be corrected in “Area C: Improving the Quality of Laboratory Medicine”, No. 12, from “DQCLM” to “DQCML”.
- Action (VS): Discussion on No. 13a (“Promote research demonstrating value of laboratory medicine in developing countries”) highlighted that EFLM has a working group on a similar topic. EMD facilitates this goal by educational meetings in developing countries (e.g., Morocco) and enabling exchange of expertise. Also, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed in 2018 between ASLM/AFCC and IFCC to strengthen and improve the quality of laboratory medicine in Africa. VS to clarify with Rajiv Erasmus (AFCC President) on

recent progress and news consideration for IFCC Communications & Publications Division. (CPD).

- No action required on 9.2.15 (same reimbursement rules apply to Corporate members).
- 9.2.16 (VLP invoices): invoices were often received too late to be paid before the end of the budget year and were carried over to the subsequent year. Action is required to shorten the invoice period to 4 weeks (see section 5.6; revision of VLP template).

5. Review of Committees and Working Groups

5.1. 2019 May Report –EMD

Individual progress reports from the Committees / Workgroups / Special Projects (see also section 5).

5.2. 2019 VLP Projects (Overview) and application form

5.2.1. To date in 2019, 11 VLP applications have been approved totalling 50 lectures in 4 continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, South America,).

5.2.2. Revision of VLP template was felt to be necessary to shorten, clarify and simplify the application form.

- EMD-EC suggested that there should be a maximum budget of CHF 2,500 per speaker and CHF 5,000 per VLP application, and up to a maximum of 3 speakers per application. The EMD-EC also encourages that experts who are invited to be visiting lecturers should come from within the same continent as the host society to reduce the costs of travel. Each visiting lecturer shall deliver a minimum of two lectures or one lecture and one workshop.
- Use synergy with Committee for Internet and Distance Learning: make sure that C-IDL (current chair: Loralie Langman) receives VLP application forms containing the names of lectures and the titles of lectures to see if any of these lectures are relevant for the eAcademy and the lecturer concerned may then be invited to prepare his/her presentation in the required format for the eAcademy.

The VLP application form was simplified during the meeting and forwarded to the EB for approval.

- The revised, simplified VLP application form will be effective as soon as EB approval is received.
- Action (LL): to send the revised form to D. Kinniburgh and M. Ferrari for EB approval.
- Action (SC): Revise the website and upload the revised form.
- In case of too many applications being received during the year applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

5.3. 2019 DQCML Kazakhstan Report

See section 5.6 (special projects).

5.4. Committees

- 9.2.4 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Evi Lianidou	Chair	GR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Ettore Capoluongo	Member	IT	1 st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Verena Haselmann	Member	DE	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
N. N.	Member				VACANT
Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez	Consultant	US			

- There is currently one vacant position and there will be two additional vacancies at the end of year, including the Chair of C-CMBC. Action (SC): to advertise the vacant positions to member societies. The new Chair will be appointed by the EB on the recommendation of the Chair of the EMD.

- Two needs have been identified to increase the number of module uploads to the training curriculum: (i) technical coordinator skills (software change; language translation options); and (ii) scientific content alignment (requires typically time and connected coordinators).
- Suggested action (EMD-EC): to ask C-CMBC what additional help is required to increase the number of uploads; also to clarify future trends in learning (adaptive learning programmes).

Detailed Report:

- The C-CMBC Course webpage was updated, including the report on the Slovakia Course.
- Responding to a request from the Chair of the EMD Committee on Proficiency Testing (C-PT) and with the technical support of ESEAP (the non-profit EQA scheme of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry-Clinical Biochemistry) an EQA programme for the detection of EGFR mutations in human plasma liquid biopsy has been implemented. This scheme validates the companion diagnostics test for the detection of EGFR mutations and is a prerequisite for the administration of innovative personalised anti-cancer treatment.
- Recent publications:
Ntzifa A, Kroupis C, Haliassos A, Lianidou E. A pilot plasma-ctDNA ring trial, for the Cobas® EGFR Mutation Test in clinical diagnostic laboratories. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2018 Sep 29. pii:/j/cclm.ahead-of-print/cclm-2018-0676/cclm-2018-EMD May Report 2019 20676.xml. doi:10.1515/cclm-2018-0676. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID:30267626.

• **9.2.5 Analytical Quality (C-AQ)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Annette Thomas	Chair	UK	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Giorgia Antonelli	Member	IT	1st	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Alexander Haliassos	Member	GR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Qing Meng	Member	CA	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Lina Khorovskaya	Member	RU	1st	2017-01 - 2019 12	

- One vacancy by the end of the year.

Detailed Report:

- Updating of the existing “Resource table for EQA” database Update: This is ongoing and is now a live document. No changes identified at this time. It was agreed to provide updated documents to IFCC office every 6 months. Next review May 2019
- Develop eLearning presentations for IFCC eAcademy Update: A large number of presentations have been reviewed by the Committee and authorisation has been obtained from the authors. 3 presentations on IQC have now been provided to Dr. Langman and Dr. Freggiaro. Further topics are to be mapped to the quality ladder concept and provided as these are made available.
- To conduct at least one C-AQ workshop upon request. Update: A workshop is planned for Kazakhstan on 19th and 20th April 2019 in collaboration with the DQCML Committee.
- To develop a Quality Ladder. Update: A scoping document has been developed, topics agreed and content / authors identified. Pre-analytical module has been completed and circulated to the members for comments. All authors to complete 1st draft by mid May for review at next meeting in Barcelona.
- Moving averages project. Update: This working group has been very active and is planning to have 3 publications available on this topic by July 2019.
- David Grenache has now completed his term on the Committee and Giorgia Antonelli, from Italy was appointed as a new member in February 2019.
- Conference call held 19th February 2019. Next face to face meetings organised for Sunday 19th May at EuroMedlab, Barcelona.

- **9.2.7 Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Annalise Zemlin	Chair	ZA	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Andrew Don-Wauchope	Member	CA	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Seema Bhargava	Member	IN	1 st	2019 03 - 2021 12	
Karina Rodriguez-Capote	Member	CA	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Nuria Giménez Gomez	Member	ES	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Chris Florkowski	Consultant	NZ			

- New member since March 2019 (S. Bhargava). One vacancy by the end of the year.

Detailed Report:

- Submission of talks to the IFCC e-Academy.
 - AZE, ADW and KRC sent talks. AZE talks loaded and ADW and KRC being finalised.
 - Talks by NG and CF that were previously loaded on present.me are to be resubmitted for new version.
 - Talks for 2019:
 - Sources of guidelines / guideline development – ADW
 - Systematic review vs. narrative review – ADW
 - Sources of bias and STARD – AZE
 - Diagnostic tests – KRC
 - Basics of EBLM – KRC or CF
 - Meta-analysis – NG

Outcome so far 2019: Talks by AWZ and ADW loaded onto website using new software. There were a few issues with loading – assisted by Paul Hamilton. Karina and Nuria need assistance – will discuss at meeting in Barcelona. Dr Bhargava keen to participate – will discuss in Barcelona.

- Continue Guidelines reviews.
 - JW resigned as member.
 - AZE to get data from JW for possible publication.
 - Advertise for new member to replace JW.

Outcome: Despite numerous emails to JW, could not get guideline data. New member: Dr Seema Bhargava from India to replace JW.

- EBLM questionnaire.
 - Present as a poster at EuroMedlab Barcelona on behalf of committee
 - Publication 2019 – Spanish and English

Outcome: Poster abstract accepted for EuroMedlab Barcelona and AACC and will be presented at both. Publication ongoing – 1st draft has been sent to committee and will be discussed in detail in Barcelona.

- Congress attendance
 - EuroMedlab 2019 – poster EBLM survey – all committee members. KRC and NG to translate and send abstract to committee – deadline 15 January 2019
 - AACC 2019 – 3 applications:
 - EBLM – ADW and AZE with 2 members of AACC EBLM committee
 - EBLM Spanish symposium – KRC and NG.
 - EBLM and personalised medicine – AZE and KRC and 2 members AACC PM committee.
 - AFCC Morocco 2019 – possible EBLM symposium. AZE to attend and possibly one other committee member.
 - COLABIOCLI – KRC and NG but no funding
 - Seoul 2020 – AZE to approach COC about possible symposium

- Committee members' individual activities on behalf of committee – e.g. AZE SAACB and AFCC; NG Spanish society and ADW and KRC Canadian Society
Outcome:
 - EuroMedlab poster accepted – committee is busy planning the poster.
 - AACC – all three symposia unfortunately were not accepted, but poster on EBLM survey accepted and will be presented by ADW.
 - AFCC Morocco – joint IFCC-AACC symposium on EBLM and PM accepted. Presenters AEZ, KRC and Xander van Wijk, a member of AACC PM Committee. Flights self-funded – registration and accommodation will be paid by COC.
 - COLABIOCLI – due to lack of funding, KRC and NG could not attend.
 - Seoul – AEZ will inquire.
 - Individual activities: AEZ – presented in Egypt (EBLM and audits) and Zambia (EBLM and demand management).
- Possible publications 2019
 - EBLM survey
 - NG: PSA guidelines
 - Guidelines – need to get data from JW
 - Systematic reviews – ADW and committee
Outcome: Committee working on publications on systematic reviews (ADW has allocated sections and created shared folder) and survey (KRC has sent 1st draft). New member interested in guidelines and will be discussed at meeting in Barcelona.
- EBLM website and social media
 - Members to send all EBLM-related activities for last 5 years to AZE for updating
 - New group photo taken in Budapest to be submitted
 - Update links on website
Outcome: outstanding – to be discussed. A photo with new member will be taken in Barcelona and uploaded.
- Joint IFCC-AACC symposium in Morocco on EBLM and PM

• 9.2.9 Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Sedef Yenice	Chair	TR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Matthias Orth	Member	DE	2nd	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Ed Randell	Member	CA	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Aye Aye Khine Wamono	Member	ZA	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Praven Sharma	Member	IN	1st	2017 03 - 2019 12	

- Two vacancies by the end of the year.

Detailed Report:

- Perform one conference call meeting in February 2019.
Performed on February 3, 2019, via Skype with the attendance of all full-members and two corresponding members
- Produce a monograph entitled “Basic Problem Solving Tools” or “Basic Tools for Quality Improvement”.
 - Revised Title: Basic Problem Solving Tools for Quality Improvement - A Pocket Guide for Laboratory Professionals.
 - Progress is as follows:

Task	Time	Deliverable	Deadline
Preparation of outline and assignment of roles	N/A	Outline approval	Feb 3, 2019
Preparation of the first draft of chapter content	4 mths.	A completed draft of chapters	June 1, 2019
Compiling, editing and finalizing monograph for review	1 mths.	The first version of the monograph	June 30, 2019
Review by peers and finalizing for publication.	1 mths.	The final version of the monograph	July 30, 2019

- Finish the monograph entitled “Practical Approaches to Quality Systems Set-up for Compliance with Internationally – Acceptable Requirements” (formerly known as a joint monograph with C-AQ, the title has been revised) which has been under review in 2018 and publish it within the first quarter of 2019. In progress. SY and Edward Randell (ER) are editing the final draft of chapters and will be published soon.
- Conduct at least one workshop with regard to the pursuits of C-CLM. The following educational workshops and one symposium will be performed in 2019:

#	Event	Date	Venue	Activity	Date of Act.	Speaker
1	71st AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	August 4-8, 2019	Anaheim, US	AACC University- 6 hours (full day) on Clinical Laboratory Leadership Essentials for the 21st Century	Sunday, August 4, 2019, 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM	Matthias Orth (MO), ER, and SY
2	AFCC Conference	September 26 -28, 2019	Marrakech, Morocco	Workshop on Leadership Development for Laboratory Professionals	Sept. 26	SY, MO
3	APFCB Regional Congress 2019	Nov 17, 2019 - Nov 20, 2019	Jaipur, IN	1) Joint Workshop w TF-YS on Building Tomorrow's Leaders by the Young Generation 2) Symposium on Leading the Appropriate Utilization of Medical Laboratory Services	Nov. 17 and 18	SY, ER, Praveen Sharma (PS)

- Provide at least two presentations to the eAcademy.
Four full members have been assigned to provide their presentations to the eAcademy. Silvia Colli Lanzi provided the Knovio Practical Guide to record the presentations on February 14, 2019.
- Produce the following monographs:
 - Basic Problem Solving Tools or Basic Tools for Quality Improvement (Please see the details in Activity 2).
 - Project Management Basics for Laboratory Leaders. Reviewing the first draft of chapters is in progress.

- Pursue a Laboratory Leadership Training Certificate Programme.
The idea is to present the workshops and record the presentations so that they can become part of online activity. The Programme will consist of 3 six-hour workshop sessions that consist of a mixture of didactic instruction and activity-based learning. All sessions will be supported by textual learning materials that address all key learning objectives that will be provided as handouts. Documented attendance and successful fulfilment of evaluation question quiz will be required for successful completion of each part of the program. Certificates will be awarded to all participants who successfully complete all sections.

Producing textual learning materials to form the handouts is in progress. A six-hour workshop will be conducted as an AACC university event at the 71st AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo on August 4, 2019.

- Conduct a survey to examine medical laboratory test utilisation management and relevant practices which are country-specific from a laboratory staff perspective. The survey is designed to be completed by the leadership types of medical or clinical laboratory professionals who have direct contact or interaction with physicians and facility administration and whose primary professional work directly affects patient care. The survey, to be sent out in early February, will assess important clinical laboratory test utilisation issues and includes questions about various dimensions of Test Utilisation Management and laboratory counselling, including:

- Role and Responsibility of Laboratory Professionals
- Local Regulations
- Work Area

The survey was completed on February 28, 2019. The number of respondents was quite reasonable from 64 different countries worldwide. We obtained an immense versatile data to work on and the assessment of responses to this survey will result in a future publication.

Silvia Colli Lanzi has commented that out of 31 IFCC surveys conducted until now, this survey has received great attention with its 662 replies, and has been ranked at the top fourth as the number of respondents.

- Face-to-Face Group meeting in Barcelona, May 19, 2019 This meeting is scheduled to be held from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM on May 19, 2019, at the CCIB-CENTRE CONVENCIONS INTERNACIONAL DE BARCELONA.
- C-CLM has submitted a revised format of the case scenarios, which is suitable for management, electronically to Janine A. Grant. However, this project is progressing slowly. The response of the App developer has been awaited since March 25, 2019
- SY has been invited to give a recorded interview for El Microscopio about “Leadership basics for clinical laboratory professionals” and C-CLM. El Microscopio is the IFCC online radio programme on infobioquimica.com. Interviews are conducted in English and then translated into Spanish for the Latin American audience. This interview is planned for the last week of April.
- C-CLM submitted a symposium proposal to be considered for the AFCC Congress in Marrakech, Morocco from September 26 – 28, 2019.
- Upon the invitation of EFLM WG-Distance education and E-learning, SY is going to deliver two webinars on the topics of "Essential Leadership Management for Laboratory Professionals" and “How should a medical laboratory specialist prepare for accreditation according to the ISO 15189” scheduled for October 8th and December 17th, respectively.
- Congress Attendance
 - EuroMedlab 2019 – group meeting with the attendance of committee members.
 - AACC 2019 – conducting a workshop in the format of AACC University
 - AFCC Morocco 2019 –C-CLM symposium and a workshop (confirmed). SY, MO to attend and possibly PS, ER as speakers for the symposium.
 - Committee members’ individual activities on behalf of the committee – e.g. ER Canadian Society.
- PUBLICATIONS
 - The EFLM Newsletter n. 2/2019. p.1. An abstract features the article on “Leadership basics for clinical laboratory professionals. C-CLM brings in a new

manual to prepare laboratory leaders” (with link to the Manual) <https://www.eflm.eu/upload/newsletters/2019-Mar-Apr-EuroLabNews.pdf#page=11>

- Yenice S. Leadership basics for clinical laboratory professionals. C-CLM brings in a new manual to prepare laboratory leaders. IFCC eNews N° 3 – March 2019, pp.8-9. <http://www.ifcc.org/media/477804/ifccenewsmarch2019.pdf>
- Randell EW and Yenice S. Delta Checks in the clinical laboratory. Critical Reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences 2019; Jan 11:1-23. DOI: 10.1080/10408363.2018.1540536 [Epub ahead of print] PMID:30632840. [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- IFCC Manual “Leadership Basics for Clinical Laboratory Professionals”, ed. Sedef Yenice and Edward Randell. 2018. ISBN: 978-88-87772-10-4. Available from: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/emd-committees/c-clm/7-c-clmpublications-and-survey-reports/>

• **9.2.10 Internet and Distance Learning (C-IDL)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Loralie Langman	Co-Chair	US	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	EMD
Eduardo Freggiaro	Co-Chair	AR	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	CPD
N.N.	Member				CPD
Janine Grant	Web Editor	AU	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	CPD
Hideo Sakamoto	Member	JP	1st	2018 01 – 2020 12	
Krystyna Sztefko	Member	PL	1st	2018 01 – 2020 12	
Ronda Greaves	Consultant	AU			
Janet Smith	Consultant	UK			
Nader Rifai	EMD Liaison	US			

- NR will serve as the EMD liaison to the committee.

Detailed Report:

- Identify where there are topics outlined in the curricula that do not have presentations already in the eAcademy. Covered this at the IFCC general meeting in Budapest
- Potential speakers or source content to fill in the above noted topics are being identified. A call has been sent to IFCC member societies asking for volunteers and a positive response has been obtained from many societies.
- Develop/record and publish the above noted content. No activity as of yet.
- Recruited eAcademy Coordinators: Paul Hamilton, David Armbruster, Frank Quinn, and Rojeet Shrestha.
- Established Knovio account to facilitate recordings for the eAcademy.
- It is slow going reviewing the “old” content on the website, much of which is really not suitable for the new eAcademy
- Several presentations have been created and are in various stages of being produced in Knovio and will then be uploaded to the eAcademy website

• **9.2.11 Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (C-EUBD)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Garry John	Chair	UK	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
E. English	Member	UK	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Asako Sato	Member	JP	1st	2019 03 - 2021 12	
David Sacks	Member	US	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Cas Weykamp	Member	NL	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Erna Lenters-Westra	Consultant	NL			

Detailed Report:

- The committee is working with WHO to finalise the Diabetes Laboratory Handbook. Following recent discussions with collaborators at WHO, this document is undergoing a final write up. There will need to be a meeting with collaborators at WHO to finalise the wording and format.
- Following the very successful HbA1c European EQA study the next phase is being planned which will include laboratories in Korea with the potential to include laboratories in Indonesia. It is planned to present the data at the IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020
- Develop a Point of Care workshop with a focus on Diabetes and Metabolic Complications. This could be held in conjunction with the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa.
- The committee is to continuing to work with colleagues from the IDF on a project looking at the diagnostic cut points for T2DM. Data gathering has been completed and is in the process of being reviewed. The project has been expanded to include additional laboratory measurements.
- Publications:
 - English E, Weykamp C, Ji L, Siebelder C, Shan Z, Wang Y, Li H, John WG. The global impact of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Education and Management Division: engaging stakeholders and assessing HbA1c quality in a multicentre study across China. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2018 Jul 25. pii: /j/cclm.ahead-of-print/cclm-2018-0434/cclm-2018-0434.xml. doi: 10.1515/cclm-2018-0434. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30044761.
 - EurA1c Trial Group. EurA1c: The European HbA1c Trial to Investigate the Performance of HbA1c Assays in 2166 Laboratories across 17 Countries and 24 Manufacturers by Use of the IFCC Model for Quality Targets. Clin Chem. 2018 Aug;64(8):1183-1192. doi: 10.1373/clinchem.2018.288795. Epub 2018 Jun 19. PubMed PMID: 29921723.
 - English E, Leters-Westra E. HbA1c method performance: The great success story of global standardization. Crit Rev Clin Lab Sci. 2018 Sep;55(6):408-419. doi: 10.1080/10408363.2018.1480591. Epub 2018 Jul 12. PubMed PMID: 30001673.
 - Leters-Westra E, English E. Evaluation of Four HbA1c Point-of-Care Devices Using International Quality Targets: Are They Fit for the Purpose? J Diabetes Sci Technol. 2018 Jul;12(4):762-770. doi: 10.1177/1932296818785612. Epub 2018 Jun 19. PubMed PMID: 29921132; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6134306.

• 9.2.12 Cardiac Biomarkers (C-CB)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Fred Apple	Chair	US	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Peter Kavsak	Member	CA	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Guillaume Lefevre	Member	FR	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Kari Pulkki	Member	FI	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Amy Saenger	Member	US	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Richard Body	Member	UK	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Su Ping Carolyn Lam	Member	SG	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Torbjørn Omland	Member	NO	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Paul Collinson	Consultant	UK			
Allan Jaffe	Consultant	US			
Jordi Ordoñez-Llanos	Consultant	ES			

- Updated work plan received. Very active group, meets 3-4 times per year. Seeks for “own” funds (via industry sponsoring for workshops). EMD-EC emphasises that according to IFCC statutes contracts shall be signed by IFCC and formal IFCC publications need internal review.

Detailed Report:

- The committee has developed educational materials for a) high-sensitivity, contemporary and point of care cardiac troponin assays and b) natriuretic peptide assays used in clinical practice. NEW:
 - Body will lead production of educational material (pocket) cards with link to website
 - Saenger will lead USB drive production with logo which will contain links and PDFs of IFCC derived educational materials
 - Collinson will initiate a campaign to assist in working towards contacting Journal editors pertaining to peer-reviewed articles that miss the marker regarding the educational efforts of the C-CB. He was successful in securing an invitation from the editor of 'Heart' to submit a viewpoint article: due April 30.
- Develop publishable laboratory medicine, interdisciplinary, expert opinion materials and present global workshops in collaboration with industry, clinical societies and other IFCC committees. NEW/In progress
 - NP Educational document – Final draft was submitted to all committee members and consultants for review with requested 2 week TAT for review, with goal of submission to Clin Chem by May 1.
 - Social Media:
 - Body developed a twitter handle that went live at the meeting (@Ccbifcc)
 - Developing a code of conduct for the C-CB to tweet statements on behalf of the committee allowing open access to post comments/tweets.
 - Other mechanisms for social media postings being discussed such as: Facebook, LinkedIn, AACC Artery (once per month, Saenger volunteered to lead), using CHARIOT paper as the first example
 - Video, individual KOL productions will be discussed and could potentially be initiated at the Barcelona meeting
 - IFCC Workshop(s) at 2019 Meetings with C-CB participation
 - Cardiac Dialogue Meeting; Alan Reid UK, April 5, 2019; Apple, Jaffe, Collinson, Body all presented
 - AACC Anaheim August 2019 – there will be a Sunday AACC University session discussing the IFCC C-CB recommendations.
 - There will be a 2nd multi-industry sponsored Wednesday morning workshop with panel by the same group of industry sponsors as last year.
 - EUSEM Prague October, symposium (non-industry sponsored); 90 min presentation.
 - IFCC 2019, Barcelona Spain – individual companies will have their own hs-cTn workshops
- Yearly update IFCC website of cardiac troponin assay and natriuretic peptide assay tables by both manufacturer' claims and from peer-reviewed literature. Expand postings with additional interference tables for biotin and haemoglobin. NEW: The latest update occurred February 1 2019.
- Continuation of distribution of educational posters and mouse-pads, as well as pocket-cards, addressing high sensitivity cardiac troponin and natriuretic peptide assays at IFCC (laboratory medicine) and clinical society meetings. NEW:
 - Plan to have Body lead production of educational material pocket cards with link to website and Saenger lead USB drive production with logo which will contain links and PDFs of IFCC derived educational materials; to be distributed initially along with mouse pads at AACC meeting.
- Develop a searchable 'APP' that will be the educational tool for cardiac biomarker assays used in clinical practice by clinicians and laboratorians. NEW/Update
 - Development of digital App for educational materials: primary objective for next 6 months: needs dedicated activity and IT App individual/expertise. Focus of Barcelona meeting next month. Options..
 - Apple will continue to query IFCC for help to get someone to attend Barcelona meeting.

- All industry partners need to let Apple know if they have someone who could attend Barcelona meeting.
 - Hire a young designer to work with us; Apple exploring this option in Minneapolis.
- Develop a study model to define a 'clinical scorecard' for high sensitivity cardiac troponin assays. NEW/Updates
- Contracts are all in place except for one company which in final stages
- All instruments ready to go, pending reagents from a couple of companies
 - QC:
 - 2 levels of BioRad QC (one low/one mid-range)
 - 2 serum pools, one near or around 99th percentile and one low value near LoD
 - c. manufacturers' QC material for their own assay if provide
 - Go live for testing: deadline of May 1
 - Specimens have been sourced from 3 different studies (UTROPIA, HighSTEACS, MAYO) instead of just single site as initially requested industry.
- Industry Multi-Sponsored Workshops (Tricia Ravalico, Abbott, lead)
 - Industry reps met April 6th, 2019 at 730-830h to discuss workshops over the next year trying to have at a Lab, Cardiology and Emergency Medicine meeting.
 - Discussed costs to be split between 6 companies per workshop
 - Financially difficult to support all 3 endeavors in one year
 - Discuss ability to organize at Paris ESC workshop, not likely. ESC not willing to be a clearinghouse. Apple will talk with IFCC about being the clearinghouse of finances. Decision was to focus on ESC for 2020 and submit as a scientific session. Jaffe and Omland will work on organizing a submission for a session for ESC 2020.
- 8. Future IFCC C-CB Meetings
 - IFCC World Congress; May 24-28th, 2020 (Seoul, South Korea) Apple to investigate submitting a scientific session, see if content will still be accepted for proposals
 - Potentially evaluate having a meeting in China, leveraging fact that some ommittee members will already be in Asia and this is a major market for diagnostic companies.
 - Explore meeting early December 2019 for next full-day session: suggested locations: US-Miami, Boston; Europe-Amsterdam
- Saenger discussed communicating with the IFCC POC committee and liaising between committees and developing shared educational documents around cardiac POCT. The C-CB agreed that a more in depth discussion around this topic should be addressed. Apple will communicate with IFCC POC committee Chair to establish a working relationship and invite them to the C-CB committee meeting at Barcelona IFFC or AACC.
- There was discussion around reporting units and decimal places used for hs-cTn assays, as current recommendation is whole numbers. Will use established databases to examine
 - Clinical scorecard study, impact on decimal places or rounding
 - CONTRAST database and serial samples/impact on rounding or not rounding
 - Other study data could evaluate impact using Mills HighSTEACS
- Regulatory/CLIA issues (Saenger): there is a recommendation from US CMS regarding updates to CLIA which affect regulation of laboratory proficiency testing criteria for grading. Currently troponin is not a regulated analyte; current College of American Pathologists (CAP) grading criteria for laboratories for troponin proficiency testing is +/- 3SD of the peer group mean or +/-30%, whichever is greater. The proposed criteria are +/- 30% or +/- 0.2 ng/mL for cTnI, +/- 0.9 ng/mL for cTnT. Several issues were discussed, including appropriateness of these criteria when translated to hs-cTn assays, particularly when criteria could be +/- 900 ng/L for hs-cTnI and +/- 200 ng/L for hs-cTnT, which are too wide of limits for assay performance. Feedback from the diagnostic companies was requested; Saenger will send a generic letter of request to C-CB industry members who can then route it to the appropriate quality/regulatory groups within their companies.

- Publications
 - Saenger AK, Jaffe AS, Body R, Collinson PO, Kavsak PA, Lam CSP, Lefevre G, Omland T, Ordonez-Llanos J, Pulkki K, Apple FS. Cardiac troponin and natriuretic peptide analytical interferences from hemolysis and biotin: educational aids from the IFCC Committee in Cardiac Biomarkers (IFCC C-CB). Clin Chem Lab Med 2019;57:633-640. doi.org/10.155/cclm-2018-0905.
 - Collinson PO, Saenger AK, Apple FS, on behalf of the IFCC C-CB. High sensitivity, contemporary, and point-of-care cardiac troponin assays: educational aids from the IFCC Committee in Cardiac Biomarkers (IFCC-CB)

• 9.2.13 Kidney Disease (C-KD)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Flavio Alcantara	Chair	BR	2nd	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Pradip Datta	Member	US	1st	2017 05 - 2019 12	
Anders Grubb	Member	SE	1st	2017 05 - 2019 12	
Michele Mussap	Member	IT	1st	2017 05 - 2019 12	
Vanja Radišić Biljak	Member	HR	1st	2017 05 - 2019 12	
Takashi Wada	Member	JP	1st	2017 05 - 2019 12	
John H. Eckfeldt	WASPaLM Nominee	US			

- Action (LL) to clarify update of work plan (2019 goals).

Detailed report:

- Survey on CKD assay practices: Portuguese and Croatian members have undertaken surveys on CKD practices in their home countries and a standardised survey format on CKD assays performed in different countries is currently underway.
- C-CKD is a joint committee of IFCC and WASPaLM. The committee plans to interact with KDIGO and nephrology societies. Nephrologists will be invited to join the committee as corresponding members.
- A review on uses of CKD assays for risk stratification of Cardiovascular Diseases in hypertensive patients is being prepared

• 9.2.14 Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Adil Khan	Member	CA	1st	2019 01 - 2021 12	
P. Oliver Saez	Member	ES	1st	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Michel Vaubourdolle	Member	FR	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Julie Shaw	Member	CA	1st	2018 05 - 2020 12	
N.N.	Corp Rep				Vacant
Markus Schwertfeger	Corp Rep	CH	1st	2017 04 - 2019 12	Roche
Rosy Tirimacco	Consultant	AU			

- Their survey been analysed by the IFCC office. Actions (SC): to consider survey summary for IFCC news. There is currently one vacant position.

Detailed Report:

- Position Statement on Point-of-Care Testing
- At least one online lecture on Point-of-Care Testing for IFCC eAcademy
- Plan for mini-symposium/workshop on Point-of-Care Testing at XXIV IFCC WORLDLAB SEOUL 2020.

- Rosy Tirimacco proposed that IFCC member countries not represented in the CPOCT should be invited to the C-POCT meeting to ensure their concerns are also addressed by C-POCT. Adil and Rosy put together a survey that was distributed to IFCC member countries. The results of the survey will be published in IFCC eNews.
- The Blood gas document has been reviewed and uploaded onto the IFCC website.
- The GMECC-WG met via teleconference on Feb 28th 2019 to discuss the progress of the document. They will be meeting again in Barcelona 2019 to go through further revisions.
- The Committee met to discuss the Position Statement on Point-of-care Testing. It was decided that the focus should be a guideline on point-of-care testing outside the hospital setting that would include pharmacies, physician offices as well as direct-to-consumer point-of-care tests. Google doc was decided as the medium to share this document with the committee. A subcommittee was formed that would work on this document and then present it to the rest of the committee for feedback. A proposed completion dates is end of 2020.
- The committee has been working with the Dr. Sail Chun and Dr. James Nichols of XXIV IFCC WORLDLAB SEOUL 2020 Scientific Committee to put together an attractive programme that will complement the POCT seminars of the Main meeting. The POCT Satellite Meeting, will be titled: “Current Prospects and Future Roles of Point-of-Care Testing” and will be held on Sunday 24th May 2020 at the XXIV IFCC WORLDLAB SEOUL 2020 .Sponsorship letters have been sent to various companies. So far Radiometer is a Gold Sponsor. Other companies will discuss sponsorship for the meeting in their next budget meeting.
- The committee will work with C-IDL for an on online lecture for IFCC eAcademy addressing the topic: “Point of care testing policies and management”.
- The Committee is also planning to hold a joint meeting with the American Association of Clinical Chemistry in 2020 at the AACC Point-of-Care Testing Conference that is held every 2 years.
- Publications.
 - In preparation: Bowman C., Cunningham S., Slingerland IER, Mesotten D., Karon BS, Nichols J. on behalf of the IFCC Working Group. How should glucose meters be evaluated in critical care?
 - How should glucose meters be evaluated for critical care? (by WG-GMECC) Article published in IFCC eNews, April 2018.
 - A Primer of Point of Care Blood Gas Testing for laboratorians, November 2018 http://www.ifcc.org/media/477840/2018-08-blood-gas-document-finalnov_2018.pdf.

● 9.2.15 Proficiency Testing (C-PT)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Alexander Haliassos	Chair	GR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Berna Aslan	Member	CA	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Anna Carobene	Member	IT	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Armand Perret-Liaudet	Member	FR	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Cas Weykamp	Member	NL	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Jian Dai	Corp.Rep.	US	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	Siemens
Michael Rottmann	Corp.Rep.	DE	2nd	2017 01 - 2019 12	Roche

- Active committee that has published together with C-CMBC. All positions are vacant by the end of the year.

Detailed Report:

- The EMD C-PT is a multidisciplinary effort in the analysis and the exploration of the Proficiency Testing issues. The main project of the committee is the creation of an online database - web application (PTDB) accessible via web browsers and also via specific applications for the major mobile platforms, offering much more functionalities and ease of use. The roots of this database are the analytes (tests, measurands) that have to be filed

with all possible synonyms, and the methods (assays, instruments, reagents, etc.) also with all possible synonyms. Another part of the database, maintained with the cooperation of the IFCC EMD CAQ and of EQALM, is the PT providers section containing all their contact information, their programmes with the analytes, frequencies, type of statistics, commutability of control materials, their accreditation or certification status, etc. The roll out of the Providers part of the database was achieved by the middle of February 2017 and now the PTDB includes 68 providers from all around the world, the latest additions are from Mexico, Russian Federation, Iran and India. The PTDB can be consulted directly at <http://ptdb.ifcc.org/providers>.

- In order to develop and implement the Analytes section of PTDB we have produced a document describing all the fields required for the creation of an Analyte record and documenting this procedure. We started from the biomarkers of neurodegenerative diseases as they are quite complicated, but well documented and we have members at the committee with expertise in these markers. This document, describing the neopterin was finalized during the IFCC General Conference (Budapest, November 2018). We agreed on the specifications of the next part of the project and we compiled and sent them to InSoft in order to start their development and implementation (AH).
- We started the development of e-documents on the use of the database – web applications (user manuals). A member of the committee has started the compilation of a “help” file for the PTDB project (BA).
- We implemented the revision of the online database (PTDB) by checking all the records of the registered EQA-PT providers (AC). Afterwards IFCC Office (Silvia Cardinale) during February 2019 contacted by e-mail all NRs in order to ask for updated contact information (e-mail addresses) of PT providers. Among them only New Zealand replied suggesting to remove the entry. At a second time, the e-mail addresses indicated in the PTDB have been contacted but no reply has been received. We found some duplicate entries that we will rectify with the help of InSoft. We also found some entries that cannot be accessed (either their URL is not working or their registered e-mail address not responding). We will decide for their definite removal from PTDB during the meeting of the committee at EuroMedLab Barcelona 2019.
- A Corporate Representative of our committee (JD) made suggestions about the introduction of features on our project that can help IVD manufacturers during the implementation and the pre-launch testing and validation on new assays. We revised these request, merged them in our features requests, and we sent them to InSoft for development and implementation (AH). We had been aware of the lack of EQA-PT schemes for neopterin in CSF, and this fact prevents the standardization of the assays measuring this analyte. Two members of our committee (AP-L and CW) started the design and production of suitable control materials that can be used for the development of EQA-PT schemes for neopterin in CSF. During March 2019 the first lot of these materials has been produced by CW and sent to AP-L for measurement, pilot distribution, and evaluation. If everything goes as planned, we will proceed at the 6. Implementation of a pilot PT scheme for the Neurodegenerative diseases biomarkers in co-operation with a non-for-profit ISO 17043 accredited EQA-PT organizer (AH and CW).
- This activity will be implemented during the fall of 2019, when the chair of C-PT plans to participate at the EQALM EB meeting (Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 16- 18, 2019), where the next steps of the participation and the contribution of the EQALM members for the further development, updating and maintenance of the C-PT database will take place as well as the planning of a co-organized roundtable during the EQALM meeting in Athens (October 2020).
- Letters to the EQA-PT providers and the National Representatives were sent by email via the IFCC office (Silvia Cardinale), during February 2019, in order to remind them to review and update their records to the PTDB and to attract new PT schemes to register and participate in the PTDB project (AH).
- The annual meeting of the members of C-PT, where the PTDB project and all the other C-PT work will be presented, will be take place, as planned, during the next EuroMedLab congress in Barcelona with the following schedule: Sunday May 19th 2019. 09:00-12:00 Closed meeting (full and corporate members only). 12:30-14:00 Open meeting (along with corresponding members and anyone interested in the work of C-PT).

- Responding to a request of the Chair of the EMD Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML) special project, the Chair of C-PT will give three presentations related to the work and projects of the committee during the DQCML workshop and lectures in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on April 19 and 20 (AH). The presentations are entitled:
 - The IFCC PTDB project or how to select your EQA-PT provider,
 - The EQA-PT programs for the new companion tests in oncology,
 - Digital Tools for researchers in Laboratory Medicine.

We will organise an unofficial meeting of the C-PT members during the 2019 AACC annual meeting at Anaheim, USA, as most of the C-PT members will be there for other functions.

● **9.2.16 Value Proposition for Laboratory Medicine (C-VPLM)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Andrew St John	Chair	AU	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Robert Christenson	Member	US	1st	2018 03 – 2020 12	
Maurice O’Kane	Member	UK	1st	2018 03 – 2020 12	
Paul Juelicher	Member	DE	1st	2018 03 – 2020 12	
Francesco Curcio	WASPaLM Rep.	IT			
Michael Oellerich	WASPaLM Rep.	IT			
Ida Parwati	WASPaLM Rep.	ID			
Nairo Massakazu Sumita	WASPaLM Rep	BR			
Roberto Verna	WASPaLM Rep	IT			
Chris Price	WASPaLM Rep	UK			

Detailed Report:

- A few members of the Committee met at AACC this year. The main outcome of this brief meeting was a decision to propose a Symposium on Value at the 2019 AACC meeting; Rob Christenson is leading this initiative. If we are successful it is likely that the Committee will have its 2019 meeting during AACC.
- There are 4 separate planned papers in various stages of preparation. In their order of progress:
 - A description of the value proposition for the effective application of point-of-care testing. The authors are Chris Price and Andrew St John
 - A description of the value proposition for the application of advanced molecular diagnostics in cancer and transplantation. Michael Oellerich is leading this initiative.
 - A general review of the technique of economic modelling and its application to laboratory medicine. Paul Julicher is leading this initiative.
- A comparison of how tests are evaluated and adopted in different countries, the barriers that exist which prevent effective adoption and whether these are addressed by the Value Proposition framework. Andrew St John is leading this initiative.
- Two workshops are in the planning stages:
 - In the UK, the committee is working with two organisations - KTN (Knowledge Transfer Network) and Innovate UK - to organise a workshop involving a range of stakeholders that would examine (i) process change and (ii) investment/disinvestment decisions in relation to the introduction of new tests. Chris Price is leading this initiative and it will involve Maurice O’Kane.
 - b) In Australia, a workshop is being planned by the committee, possibly to be run in other countries, that will review the clinical pathway for a specific test or tests. The participants will include all the stakeholders that contribute to the pathway including clinicians and other healthcare professionals. The workshop will highlight the key elements that contribute to and hinder the demonstration of value for that specific test. Likely tests to be considered include HbA1c and CRP by POCT.

Discussions have commenced with funding agencies in the Federal Government. Andrew St John and Tony Badrick are leading this initiative.

5.5. Working Groups

• 9.3.8 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Laura Sciacovelli	Chair	IT	2nd+	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Mario Plebani	Past chair	IT			
Keila Furtado Veira	Member	BR			
Isabel Garcia del Pino Castro	Member	ES			
Agnes Ivanov	Member	EE			
Giuseppe Lippi	Member	IT			
Zorica Sumarac	Member	RS			
Jamie West	Member	UK			
Vincent De Guire	Member	CA			

- A new Chair has to be appointed beginning on 1 January 2020.

Detailed Report:

- Continuous use by laboratories of the new entering procedure for Quality Indicators on the dedicated website (www.ifcc-mqi.com) and evaluation of collected data to update the State-of-the-Art concerning the data of Quality Indicators. Laboratories' quality indicator results are collected monthly through the dedicated website and their evaluation is in progress.
- Identification of Performance Specifications for each Quality Indicator and publication of a scientific paper reporting the data. WG-LEPS is writing a scientific paper that reports the updating of Performance Specifications based on the results of Quality Indicators data collected in the last year.
- Definition of specific plan by National Leaders of each country to promote the active use of Quality Indicators in the national laboratories. The planning foresees that the National Leader should (i) encourage the use of MQI; (ii) "personalise" the use of QIs in daily practice according to national practices, requirements and regulations; (iii) co-operate with the members of the WG-LEPS by providing valuable suggestions to improve the project. The WG-LEPS is collaborating with the:
 - a) Beijing Center for Clinical Laboratory (Prof. Wang Qingtao, BCCL Director, and Dr. Zhou Rui, CCL manager). Their involvement in the management and dissemination of quality indicators for the monitoring of activities concerning some specific molecular diagnostics of the intra-analytical phase that will be proposed to laboratories all over the world has been finalised;
 - b) Quebec Society of Clinical Biology (Société Québécoise de Biologie Clinique) has already launched a programme for quality indicators comparison in Québec province with up to 60 laboratories participating. The Society will launch its programme for the rest of Canada at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemistry in order to promote quality in their laboratories and is completely free of charge. The collaboration is based on the sharing of the Model of Quality Indicators proposed by WG-LEPS and a common management of the quality indicator results. Moreover, joint initiatives will be realised in order to promote the use of quality indicators in all laboratories all over the world.
- Involving national scientific societies, accreditation bodies and EQA/PT providers in different countries as a means of disseminating the MQI project and promoting participation of laboratories is continuing. The Chair participated in the Annual Meeting of the Quebec Society of Clinical Biology on 25th October 2018 by delivering a talk in order to promote the collaboration on the Quality Indicator project.

- Publications.
 - Aita A, Sciacovelli L, Plebani M. Laboratory-related errors: you cannot manage what you don't measure. You manage what you know and measure. *Diagnosis (Berl)* 2017; 4(4): 193-195.
 - Aita A, Sciacovelli L, Plebani M. Extra-analytical quality indicators - where to now? *Clin Chem Lab Med*. 2017 Dec 18. pii:/j/cclm.ahead-of-print/cclm-2017-0964/cclm-2017-0964.xml. doi:10.1515/cclm-2017-0964. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29252191.
 - Sciacovelli L, Aita A, Plebani M. Extra-analytical quality indicators and laboratory performances. *Clin Biochem*. 2017 Jul;50 (10-11): 632-637.

● **9.3.10 Harmonization of Interpretive Comments (WG-ICQA)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
N.N.	Chair				Vacant
Mario Plebani	Past chair	IT			
Eric Kilpatrick	Member	UK			
Tony Badrick	Member	AU			
Ken Sikaris	Member	AU			
Jane French	Member	UK			
Jacqueline Osypiw	Member	UK			
Magdalena Turzyniecka	Member	ZA			

- Chair position is currently vacant. Action (LL): Magdalena Turzyniecka has been approached to chair this working group pending EB approval.

Detailed Report:

- The working group supports the development of locally led patient report comment EQA programme in Africa: However, communication thus far has been inconclusive but will be followed up.
- Submission for the inclusion of EQA for interpretative commenting in the revised ISO 15189 is concluded. The outcome is still awaited.
- Collaboration with EFLM Working Group on Postanalytical Phase (WG-POST) is being discussed. IFCC and EFLM have decided that an MoU is not necessary.

● **9.3.11 Personal Support (WG-PS)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Graham Beastall	Chair	UK	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	
Donald Young	Member	US			

Detailed Report:

- Complete promotion of WG-PS via IFCC e-News and TF-YS social network (completed).
- Perform audit of Mentoring Programme and modify operation in the light of feedback. (in progress).
- Publish some case studies to be used for further promotion of WG-PS (In preparation)
- Set targets for expected use of both RoE and Mentoring and monitor performance against those targets (Under consideration).
- Perform audit of the RoE from both Experts and Inquirers (In preparation).
- Identify individuals to join WG-PS with a view to succession (In progress).
- The Work Plan for 2018 was completed successfully. Operation of the two components of WG-PS is now routine with Silvia Cardinale working closely with Graham Beastall.
- We have been successful in recruiting significant numbers of Experts and Mentors. However, the number of requests to use the Register of Experts and the number of

applicants for Mentoring remain disappointingly small. I am unsure if the problem is that few people know about the WG or whether few people wish to use the WG. Hopefully, the Work Plan will help to resolve this uncertainty.

- Ill health has prevented Donald Young for making a significant contribution to WGPS over recent months.
- Publications.
 - IFCC Programmes for Personal Support (by WG-PS)
 - Article published in IFCC eNews, February 2019

5.6. Special Projects

• 9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Nader Rifai	Chair	Us	1st	2018 01 - 2020 12	

- Details of VLPs discussed in section 5.2 (see above).

• 9.4.2 Flow Cytometry (WG-FC)

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Claude Lambert	Chair	FR	1st	2019 01 - 2021 12	
Andreas Spittler	Member	AU			
Katharina Psarra	Member	GR			
Cecilia Rodriguez	Member	AR			
Andrey M. Ivanov	Member	RU			
Matthias Schiemann	Member	DE			
Z. Suleimenova	Member	KZ			
Mesude Falay	Member	TR			
Maria E. Schroeder	Member	UY			
Ulrich Sack	Consultant	DE			

- Active working group – extended activities with three countries in South America in the planning stage for 2019. Committee chair has requested for more funding from 2019 – 4000 Euros per year.

Detailed Report:

- A winter school was held in St-Etienne/France (5 – 9 March 2018).
- A course was conducted in Istanbul/Turkey (20 – 22 June 2018), sponsored by Beckman.
- A course was conducted in Sao Paulo/Brazil (28 – 30 August 2018), sponsored by Beckman.
- A manuscript on validation in cytometry has been submitted to Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and is under revision.
- A flow cytometry course is being planned with ACBI.
- A course was conducted in Astana/Kazakhstan (19 – 21 September 2018), sponsored by Beckman and supported by the local university and scientific community.
- A course on Flow Cytometry was conducted in Munich, Germany (24 – 28 September 2018).
- For each course, 30 to 36 participants attended the practical exercises. Lectures were also open to interested scientists and technicians. Local support was always excellent. Beckman Coulter supported the organisation, financing, and provided technical equipment and consumables. Local specialists were essential for practical work.

- The Winter School of Cell Analysis in Immunology was held from the 4th to the 8th of February 2019. The 12 attendees came from different countries, including Russia, Egypt, Qatar and Cote d'Ivoire. Teachers came from Germany, Russia, Algeria, Morocco, Geneva and Luxemburg. The course included theoretical reminders on lymphopoiesis and myelopoiesis, cell immunity, focusing on phenotypes and activation status. Technical aspects in cell preparation were approached and practical exercises were held, especially on functional tests. Then data analyses on real assays were performed by students on computers. Issue in immune-monitoring and technical tips were presented and discussed on sensitisation, immunodeficiencies, hypersensitivities, sepsis, tumour immunology. Also new issues like image cytometry, mass cytometry and very large data analysis were presented by experts.

- **9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)**

NAME	POSITION	COUNTR Y	TERM	TIME IN OFFICE	NOTES
Egon Amann	Chair	DE	1st	2017 01 - 2019 12	
Janet Smith	Corresp. Memb.	UK			
Ronda Greaves	Corresp. Memb.	AU			
Victor Daka	Corresp. Memb.	ZM			

- Many activities, very active. The EC is very happy with progress.

Detailed Report:

- An Open DQCML Session (“Drop in session”) with National Representatives who may wish to seek support was offered during the IFCC General Conference on 9 November 2018.
- DQCML collaborated with the Chair of C-AQ (Annette Thomas) in organising the visits to Malawi (February 2018) and Nepal (May 2018) as well as to provide lectures and support. Additional lectures on IQC & EQA and support were provided by Graham Beastall (Malawi) and Renze Bais (Nepal).
 - Two workshops on IQC and EQA were conducted in Malawi (in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe) on 26 February and 1 March 2018. Lecturers were Graham Beastall, Annette Thomas and Egon Amann. These workshops supported the ambitions of Malawi to develop a programme of Quality Competence.
 - A workshop on IQC and EQA was conducted in Nepal from 28 – 30 May 2018. The two national societies, NACC and NAMLS, jointly applied for this programme. Lecturers were Renze Bais, Annette Thomas and Egon Amann. The visit was also a kick-off for a RCPA EQA-sponsored materials transfer to Nepal’s clinical laboratories. 20 labs have initially enrolled.
 - To follow-up and encourage further engagement with and project support of the Association of Clinical Chemistry of Nigeria (ACCN) following the DQCML workshop on Sustaining Quality Practice and Process in Developing Countries delivered in 2016. No updates were received from Nigeria since the workshop in 2016. A discussion with Dr Onuegbu is ongoing to find out if any VLP funding is still available (initiated by Graham Beastall).
- Reports on the Malawi and Nepal workshops were published in the IFCC eNews. All presentation materials from these workshops are available from the Chair and could be shared under the eAcademy web site.
- The experience gained in the EQA Zambia Project that was led by Dr. Renze Bais in the provision of control and standard materials, logistics and support is being utilised for the workshop and ongoing material supply in Nepal.
- DQCML Visit to Kazakhstan: April 19 – 20, 2019.

6. EMD input for EB strategic plan

EMD strategic plan is aligned with EB strategic plan

7. EMD strategic plan

Mid-term review in Milan, October 28th and 18th 2019

8. EMD contributions to IFCC News

- IFCC eNews January 2019, page 10:
IFCC Programmes for Personal Support, G. Beastall (WG-PS Chair)
- IFCC eNews March 2019, page 6:
The IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme A tool to facilitate the international exchange of knowledge, N. Rifai (VLP Chair)
- IFCC eNews March 2019, page 8:
Leadership basics for clinical laboratory professionals C-CLM brings in a new manual to prepare laboratory leaders, S. Yenice (C-CLM Chair)
- IFCC eNews April 2019, page 9:
Welcome and thanks to the Chairs: Farewell to Rosy Tirimacco and Welcome to Adil Khan, C-POCT

9. EMD sessions at IFCC congresses

9.1. COLABIOCLI Congress, Panama, September 2019

- EMD Symposium:
Haemoglobin A1c: a measurement that continues to evolve. Chair: G. John (UK); S. Raymondo (UY)
 - 1) Haemoglobin A1c Measurement: an overview. Speaker: G. John (UK)
 - 2) Can HbA1c be used for to diagnosis Diabetes. Speaker: E. English (UK)
 - 3) Quality targets HbA1c Lessons learnt from Eternal Quality Assessment. Speaker: C. Weycamp (NL)
 - 4) HbA1c in Clinical Practice; current thinking and future prospective. Speaker: D. Sacks (US)

9.2. AFCC Congress, Marrakech, Morocco, September 2019

- EMD Symposium proposal:
Verification of Laboratory Test Results in the Core Lab: Exploring effectiveness from the ground up. Chair: S. Yenice (TR)
 - 1) Quality Assurance in laboratory test results. Speaker: P. Sharma (IN)
 - 2) HIL and other consistency checks. Speaker: M. Orth (DE)
 - 3) Delta Checks and the unusual and abnormal. Speaker: S. Yenice (TR)
 - 4) High performance Autoverification as a Continuous Process Improvement Strategy. Speaker: E. Randell (CA)

9.3. APFCB Congress, Jaipur, India Congress, Panama, November 2019

- EMD Symposium:
The Liquid Biopsy approach: Following the tumour in peripheral blood. Chair: E. Lianidou (GR)
 - 1) CTC analysis: an overview of CTC technologies and clinical significance Speaker: E. Lianidou (GR)
 - 2) Liquid Biopsy: the new frontier in the war against cancer. Speaker: A. Babayan (DE)
 - 3) Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA): detection systems and clinical significance in cancer. Speaker: D. Hoon (US)

9.4. ICCLM Congress, Seoul, Korea, May 2020

- EMD Symposium: *Achieving Healthcare Excellence: the UNIVANTS Awards 2019*. Chairs: Andrew St John and Howard Morris
 - 1) 'The value of laboratory medicine; improving health outcomes'. Speaker: A. St.John
 - 2) UNIVANTS Awardee 1: Title to be advised
 - 3) UNIVANTS Awardee 2: Title to be advised
 - 4) UNIVANTS Awardee 3: Title to be advised

10. Links with other Divisions

10.1. Collaboration with SD

- SD liaison to C-EUBD: K. Makris
- Collaboration of SD C-MD and WG-SIA with C-EUBD

10.2. Collaboration with CPD

EMD-CPD Joint Committee C-IDL – Co-Chairs: L. Langman - E. Freggiaro

11. Any other business

11.1. Budget

No changes.

11.2. 2019 EMD Functional units time in office

Next to the vacant positions highlighted in section 5 above, there will be also one vacant position on the EMD-EC by the end of the year. To represent most continents, someone from South America should fill this vacant position.

11.3. Midterm review of the three-year strategic plan

Detailed separate document.

12. Date and location of future meetings

12.1. Milan, October 18 and 19, 2019

12.2. Milan, April 2 and 3, 2020

Since LL will not be able to attend the IFCC WorldLab in Seoul due to work commitments the EMD-EC will meet on Thu/Fri 2/3 April in Milan.

13. EMD EC meets the Chairs of EMD Committees/WG/Special Projects

Day 1:

14:20, 9.2.10 Internet and Distance Learning (C-IDL), Janine Grant

- For details, refer to report. Good progress in last 3 months: 5 new uploads; totalling 117 (still a mix of external links and own material); C-CLM is the most active.
- Hurdles: by merging 2 committees (technical and content), the number of members was reduced from 10 to 6, but the workload has stayed the same. Other topics: response time from speakers and their permission to publish slides has on occasion been slow.
- Currently only 2 coordinators available; their central role: check quality and completeness of 3 elements: technical quality (audio, slides), scientific content, meta-data (picture, CV, 5 key questions)

14:50, 9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML), Egon Amann

- For details, refer to report. Good experience(s): local “work plans” with clear objectives mostly led to success (Vietnam, Algeria); some national societies (AACB) provided quality material free of charge (IFCC as mediator); separate workshops with focus are more efficient than satellite meetings attached to larger congresses; combination of local “champion”, follow-up by national societies and commitment from ministry of health (implementation incentives); Very well appreciated in most countries
- Challenges: sometimes English is still a hurdle.

Day 2:

11:15, 9.2.15 Proficiency Testing (C-PT), Alexander Haliassos

- For details, refer to report. Highlighted the need to fill all positions by end of year; especially for industry representatives some help from EMD-EC required; action (EMD-EC) to inform the industry members; appointments need to be done by November
- Suggestion to invite Jian Dai and Michael Rottmann to be consultants to the committee after their terms on the committee end at the end of this year. This is to provide some continuity as there will be five new committee members in Jan-2020.

12:30, 9.2.12 Cardiac Biomarkers (C-CB), Fred Apple

- For details, refer to report. Very active committee.
- EMD-EC agreed that C-CB can have 7 members. Drs. Lefevre, Pulkki and Omland will not be appointed for a 2nd term. Their positions will become vacant and new appointments to these positions will be staggered at appropriate intervals in order to avoid all committee members coming to the end of their second terms at the same time.
- AACC workshop with approx. 500 attendees planned.
- Future projects include a software app that serves as educational material for cardiac biomarker assays used in clinical practice by clinicians and laboratorians.
- Currently, no regular corporate representatives are listed as members of the committee. Clarification about roles and responsibilities of industry contributors: next to the 7 members, C-CB regularly invites 5-15 industry representatives to their meetings who pay their own travel expenses. They are considered as consultants.

14:15, 9.3.11 Personal Support (WG-PS), Graham Beastall

- For details, refer to report. Database of enthusiastic experts (as mentors) is expanding (currently >100); additional mentors have been recruited by personal contacts together with the supporting effect of Newsletter articles
- The EMD-EC suggested that articles should be published in the IFCC eNews to make people aware of the options and benefits.
- Hurdles: Often no face-to-face meeting is possible because of budget reasons. Thus, use of social media is encouraged
- Potential successor for chair: Ann Gronowski

14:35, 9.2.14 Point of Care Testing (C-POCT), Adil Khan

- For details, refer to report. Some of the results of the POC survey were unexpected (e.g., POC devices are regulated in only 55% of countries; only 38% of the responding associations have a POC Committee; etc.).
- Same as with C-CB, the C-POCT has raised additional funds, approximately 6K this year.

14:45, 9.3.8 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS), Laura Sciacovelli

- For details, refer to report. A new chair has to be appointed beginning 1 January 2020. LL suggested Mario Plebani and will put this proposal forward to the E for approval.

14:55, 9.2.7 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM), Annalise Zemlin

- For details, refer to report. Very active committee.
- Some hurdles were encountered in uploading presentations onto the eAcademy: Two most recent eAcademy uploads took almost three afternoons.
- Action (SC): Nuria Gimenez Gomez, a committee member, is still listed on the IFCC website as both a committee member and a corresponding member.

15:15, 9.2.13 Kidney Disease (C-KD), Flavio Alcantara

- For details, refer to report. Actions (C-KD): website needs to reflect latest name change from CKD to KD.
- Vacant position: Suggestion (NR) to include John Lieske (US) for AKI. Suggestion from C-KD to include a nephrologist, but the member must come from IFCC member associations. Otherwise, the nephrologist could be appointed as a consultant.
- Current lack of Corporate members. Suggestion (LL) to let the corporates nominate qualified candidates.
- Konstantinos Makris has started making contributions to new KDIGO AKI guidelines, It was suggested that a C-KD member should join the KDIGO meetings. (https://kdigo.org/conference_attendee/acute-kidney-injury/)
- Work plan will be sent 1 week from now.

15:35, 9.2.10 Internet and Distance Learning (C-IDL), Loralie Langman

- For details, refer to report. Clear goal: scientific peer review before it goes to technical implementation. Scientific reviewers should be ideally broad generalists.
- Hurdles identified: modules most often contain too many abbreviations. Conference recordings often do not meet the (technical) quality expectations. Recommended number of modules per curriculum are not standardised.
- Suggestions (NR): To use and also translate AACC modules (“pearls”).

16:05, 9.2.4 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC), Sedef Yenice

- For details, refer to report. Vacancies: Recommended chair would be Verena Haselmann. A. Ferreira to come back as member; Evi Lianidou to stay on as a consultant.
- The advanced course is ready. The decision on Bolivia for the basic course is still pending. The other option might be Turkey.

16:15, 9.2.9 Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM), Sedef Yenice

- For details, refer to report. Very active committee.
- The expectation is one workshop per year and the committee has conducted 8 workshops in 5 years, in addition to many recordings, webinars and publications. The entire work plan is on time except for one monograph which is delayed, but submission is anticipated at the end of May 2019.
- In 2019, two workshops (Morocco and Anaheim; the latter will be paid by AACC).

16:30, 9.4.2 Flow Cytometry (WG-FC), Claude Lambert

- For details, refer to report. Very active working group.
- After the winter school, the future plans are for Israel, UK and Germany (Munich). Plans for 2021: big data analysis (France).

16:40, 9.2.5 Analytical Quality (C-AQ), Annette Thomas

- For details, refer to report. Many activities. Three webinars have been uploaded with two to come. Plans for 2020: To understand even better the local needs of the developing countries and adapting to it – sometimes even starting with basic needs (e.g., Khazakhstan required translation into Russian language). Other example: Private labs in developing countries are often more dedicated to lab workshops (Malawi, Algeria, Kenya).