

144th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board June 24, 2020

Minutes

The 144th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held via Zoom Conference.

Participants:

EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	Treasurer
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)

Apologies

Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporate Members Representative (Roche)
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- 1.1.143 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of May 27th, 2020
KA will finalize the WorldLab Guidelines and then share them with the EB for approval before distribution.

IFCC Functional Units: Consultation and Meeting Schedule

A formal message was sent to all IFCC functional units encouraging them to initiate virtual meetings with the assistance of the office staff (with the first zoom meeting in June/July and a second meeting in the fall). Many have already started these virtual meetings with support of the office. Meetings should also be held between the Division Executives and TFs and the President/Secretary 2-3 times per year to ensure regular communication with all key units. Other EB members can be involved as they wish and are welcome to attend these meetings. We will continue to have a liaison from the EB on each TF. Each Chair will have frequent zoom meetings with their Committees and WGs.

Update on Zoom meetings with Task Force Chairs

13.01.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

Recommendation for new Members

After meeting with the TF-E, KA, AG and DK supported their recommendation for new members and recommended acceptance by the EB. The EB approved the new members. AG will continue with the TF-E as a consultant after her term on the EB concludes in December 2020.

13.01.06 Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

Expansion of the professional exchange program

KA, TO and DK will draft a proposal for changes to enhance the YS PEP, including increasing the budget, increasing host lab opportunities and possibly including Corporate Member involvement, wider advertising of the program, and increasing the list of interested Young Scientists.

TO will continue as consultant for the IFCC YS Forum.

AH commented that AFCB has encouraged the formation of YS committees in all Arabic countries and will organize a course in molecular biology during the EFLM/AFCB Congress.

13.01.12 Task Force History (TF-H)

PB will send the Milestone document to the EB members. KA commented that it is a very good document that highlights activities of IFCC and also honours Howard Morris. The document will be updated regularly. The TF is also working on a book to honour the 70th anniversary of IFCC. Other activities to celebrate this anniversary need to be planned.

13.01.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)

Zoom meeting and Letter to CVS and MedTech Europe Code regarding Entertainment

A very successful meeting was held with TF-CM with excellent attendance from many corporate members. It was agreed that there should be more frequent meetings (zoom or in person) between the IFCC Executive/EB members and the TF-CM. Another meeting will be scheduled in Fall 2020 and at least 2 meetings per year moving forward.

The CVS/MedTech Europe Code has responded to our inquiry stating that entertainment cannot be part of, or conflict with, the educational program, and needs to be paid for separately, over and above the registration fee. The interpretation is that speakers also need to pay for hospitality. There is a question if it would be acceptable (for some conferences) that the Local Convention Bureau provides free entertainment at no cost to IFCC or IVD industry. This question will be sent to the CVS/MedTech Europe Code.

13.01.16 Task Force COVID 19

KA provided an update on taskforce activities including publication of 5 scientific articles over the past 2 months. A new detailed IFCC Guideline on COVID-19 Testing is being prepared for submission soon.

Executive Board 2021-2023

Update on Meeting with new Incoming EB, zoom Conference call June 4th.

KA presented and discussed the new EB Strategic Plan with the 2021-2023 EB and they were supportive of the proposed plans.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan:

KA will draft a summary of the Terms of Reference and Goals for the new Task Forces, for discussion with the EB.

Formation of New Taskforces:

13.10.17 Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening

An executive summary will be circulated to the EB. One initial action item will be to Identify and approach experts. KA asks the EB to send names of experts in this area.

13.1.18 Taskforce on Global External Quality Assurance

An executive summary will be circulated to the EB. KA and DK have met and exchanged emails with OneworldAccuracy (1WA), as one potential provider, to see what they can offer in support of this Taskforce, with a goal of starting in 2021. The project will focus on countries that do not have an EQA program. An RFP will be released to identify the provider that can best meet the needs of the project. The current EQA committee will be dissolved and a new TF will be formed, with some members coming from the current TF. Alexander Haliassos will be EB liaison to then new TF. The initial plan is for a pilot project with 12 low income countries including 4 from Latin America, 4 from Africa and 4 Asia, with 5 labs from each country. There are a number of questions that need to be addressed and the TF will finalize the details and present a plan to the EB for approval.

13.01.21 Taskforce on eAcademy (Distance Learning/Live & Recorded Webinars)

An executive summary will be circulated to the EB. An initial focus will be monthly webinars. KA and SCL have met with WorkCast, who has been identified as a potential provider of global webinars, including those for the eAcademy. The C-DL will be dissolved and some members will join the new TF. The CPD C-leL will continue under a different name as its mandate will be to continue to work on internet infrastructure (including the IFCC website) and social networking activities.

5.0 Regional Organisations

5.4 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
Arrangements regarding office support funding; distribution of Full EB minutes; notification of EB decisions.

A previous agreement provided for the IFCC EB and the EFLM EB to exchange full minutes with each other, in order to promote better communication and possible overlap of projects and duplication of efforts. It was agreed that the full EB minutes should be sent to all Regional Federations. There was also a previous agreement for the IFCC to support one office staff member working for EFLM. These issues will be discussed with the EFLM when the new EuroMedLab agreement is discussed. In January 2021 the grant provided to Regional Federations, as per their agreement with IFCC, will increase from 10,000 to 25,000 Swiss Francs.

A draft guideline document has been developed for Regional Federations detailing the terms of reference and eligible expenses for EB review and approval (copy attached).

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2 International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ICCCLM)
IFCC WorldLab Congresses

KA and DK met with J. Wesenberg (see C-CC zoom call minutes).

KA, TO and DK will revise the guidelines and present them to the EB for approval, prior to release in the fall with a request for bids from National Societies to host the 2026 WorldLab congress in the fall.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)

Status update and Plan B

Plan B for the Seoul Congress could be a combination of smaller Regional physical meeting with an international virtual meeting, perhaps using the WorkCast Virtual Conference Platform. A pre-congress satellite meeting, or symposium, on COVID could also be included. MZ will be consulted to determine current contract liabilities for the congress centre, hotels and other expenses, and the potential impact on sponsors. Discussion will

also include the Seoul COC, and final approval will come from the EB. A final decision will be announced in September or October.

7.4 New conference planning: 2022, 2024, 2028 (Specialized/Strategic Conferences or additional WorldLabs)

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7.20 Membership
Chair for C-CC

The new chair will be Päivi Laitinen, and James Wesenberg will be a consultant for one year.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.1 SD Executive Committee

KA and DK met with P. Gillery (see SD Zoom call minutes).

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.1 EMD Executive Committee

KA and DK met with L. Lai (see EMD Zoom call minutes).

Update on the Pearls of Laboratory Medicine translation into Spanish

RSA has had difficulty in obtaining the presentations for this month from AACC. Nader will be contacted for his assistance.

Merging of EMD Committee of Cardiac Biomarkers (C - CB) and SD Working Group on Standardization of Troponin (WG-TNI)

It was previously recommended that these 2 groups should be merged however both P. Gillery and L. Lai feel that the groups have different mandates, are active, and should remain separate. The EB agreed.

10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.1 CPD Executive Committee

KA and DK met with T. Pillay (see CPD Zoom call minutes).

10.40 Other business

Global Radio proposal – Update

KA and DK had a meeting with Hernan, Santiago and Augustina regarding their Global Radio proposal. The cost for the new plan was too high to consider at this time, and it was not clear how this new radio will fit with other aspects of the new Strategic Plan around education and communication. It was suggested that the Global Radio be merged with the TF-YS and e-Academy plans, to include a News Channel like CNN. Ideally all would operate under one platform for communication. It would be important for Hernan to continue as a contributor.

19.0 Meetings

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

EB Meetings 2020, 2021

An EB meeting may be possible in the Milan area or in Canada in October, 2020, but it is dependent upon the local COVID situation and the ability of members to travel.

An EB meeting is planned for Seoul, 10th January 2021, ½ day pm after the Congress closing, and January 11th & 12th full days.

If necessary we can consider holding the IFCC Council meeting as virtual meeting if it is not possible to delay the Council meeting until the Munich Congress.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

IFCC Office Staff update

PB and staff have made a proposal to add one Office staff member, potentially in November, and recommended the allocation of staff duties. KA and DK will review the proposal and discuss with the EB at the next meeting.

IFCC Budget

AG asked about the IFCC financial picture in light of the impact of the COVID pandemic. KA and TO stated that our operating expenses for meetings and travel (the biggest expense) have been very low and we are in a very good position at this time. KA suggests that greater use of virtual meetings (Zoom) in the future will reduce travel costs going forward. There is uncertainty regarding our Congress revenue. TO will develop a draft budget that includes anticipated expenses for the new Strategic Plan and estimated revenues, that will be passed to the new Treasurer for approval by the new EB.