

145th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board July 29, 2020

Minutes

The 145th 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
Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporate Members Representative (Roche)
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
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

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)

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- 1.1.144 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of June 24th, 2020
The minutes have been circulated.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan:

Formation of New Taskforces

KA provided a written summary of the plans for the Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening, the Taskforce on Global Lab Quality, and the Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy, which will be the initial focus.

Discussion

13 01 17 Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening

RH suggested that the plan be presented to the TF-CM with a discussion of the benefits to the companies who may be a sponsors or members of the Taskforces. Companies who are not IFCC members may be involved but we would try to recruit them as IFCC Corporate Members. National Societies would be responsible locally and hopefully eventually local governments would become active, or responsible for the program. The plan is to start with a Pilot in some country. There would be

meetings with the National Society and government to enlist their support and participation. National Societies will be invited to express interest and apply to participate. A survey will be sent to the National Societies to determine the current need, interest and potential participants. RH suggested at least 2 Corporate Members on TF, and KA confirmed that Corporate Members would have the opportunity to be involved, as with the TF-COVID. The EB agreed to move forward with this TF. A first step will be to identify the Chair and potential members.

13 01 18 Taskforce on Global Lab Quality

It was agreed that this is an ambitious project with numerous challenges. The focus will be on countries that do not have an EQA program right now. Identification of capable, committed and energetic participants will be key to the success of the project. The plan is to include Young Scientists to provide on-site training. Preliminary discussions have been conducted with a potential provider to identify possible plans and costs. An industry partner who will provide and send the samples (and perhaps provide software) will be identified with an RFP. National Societies will also be partners. AG asked if this should be split into 2 projects, EQA and Global Reference Intervals. There was also concern that the cost estimates may be too low. KA feels that even if the final cost is more, it would be money well spent if it improves quality in developing countries, and recommends starting with a Pilot project which will allow a better estimate of costs and challenges. Other groups in Europe, the AACC, and within the IFCC have experience in this area and it was agreed that input from them would be useful. The EB (majority) agreed to move forward with this TF.

13 01 21 Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy

WorkCast has been identified as a commercial partner to develop Webinars that are customised for IFCC. Initially we will start with live monthly webinars and expand to produce recorded webinars for the e-Academy. A dedicated focus, knowledgeable resources (WebCast and a project coordinator), and sufficient budget should allow the TF to make significant progress. KA has talked to existing committees and chairs who agree that the current system is not working as hoped. Individuals from current committees may be selected for the new TF. It is important to have a clear understanding of what the problems have been in the past and how the new TF can overcome them. The EB agreed to move forward with this TF.

13 01 19 - Taskforce on Outcome Studies in Lab Medicine (hold for now)

13 01 20 - Taskforce on Global Reference Interval Consortium (hold for now)

5.0 Regional Organisations

IFCC Grants to Federations (New Terms of Reference)

The grants provided to the Federations will increase but funds will be provided after invoices, or proof of expenses, have been received. In the situation that a Federation needs seed funding to start a project, this could be approved with a supporting proposal. The intent is that this funding should be used to support activities in low income countries, which will have to be clear to the Federations. The Federation Representatives will be important ambassadors and resources to the Federations on how to obtain and use this funding. The EB supported this proposal.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.22 Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)

IFCC-BIPM MoU.

KA and DK will review this MoU.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2 International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ICCLM)

IFCC WorldLab Congresses

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)

Seoul, January 6-10, 2021, Status update

It will be necessary to make a decision by end of September or early October. Plan A is to go ahead with the in-person congress. Plan B is to hold a small regional meeting in conjunction

with a large virtual meeting. A variation on this plan would be a full virtual congress. Plan C is to further delay or cancel the congress. There will be a meeting with the AACC to discuss their plans for their annual meeting. Rolf noted that it would be ideal if the AACC and IFCC could use the same virtual meeting platform, so the exhibitors can use a single virtual booth for both. Discussions with MZ will continue to develop a more concrete plan for the EB.

WorldLab guidelines

A decision needs to be made as to how to share any potential loss from the WorldLab, between IFCC and MZ, but not with the National Society. As well, we need to determine if the National Society should receive a share of the revenue if there is a loss. This matter will be finalized via email.

7.3.1.16 Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - APFCB
APFCB Australia, 2022
Sydney – NSW, 15-22 October 2022

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI
COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022
March 28 – April 2, 2022

IFCC Proposals

The Local Organizing Committee will select symposia from proposals received from the Divisions and EB. Perhaps 3 presentations, 2 from Divisions and 1 from the EB for each congress. A call for proposals will go to the Divisions and EB from C-CC.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.1 SD Executive Committee

8.3.61 Working Group “Development of a Reference Measurement System PT/INR Standardization”
(WG-PT-INR)

Approval of the MoU with SSC/ISTH

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

11.2.11 **ICPLM Satellite Conference in May 2021**

Update on conference

The satellite meeting is now planned be held in May, near Munich.

15.0 Financial Matters

15.1 Organization of Finances

Treasurer’s Report

TO provided a financial statement to the EB by email and summarized the highlights. Total income is somewhat less than budgeted but more than offset by expenses that are significantly less than budget. Thus there is a significant surplus available and the outlook for the rest of this year is favourable.

19.0 Meetings

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

EB Meetings 2020, 2021

An EB meeting may be held in the Milan area or possibly in Canada in Oct/Nov 2020, depending upon the COVID situation and travel restrictions.

Seoul, 10th January 2021, ½ day pm, after the Congress closing, January 11th-12th full days.

A combined meeting with the current and new EB members will be considered.

There will not be an EB meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 17, 2020

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

IFCC office staff planning 2021

The hiring of additional staff is delayed until the end of the year or January, 2021, due to COVID and the delay in TF activities.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.2.10 Committee on Internet and Distance Learning (C-DL)

Update on Pearls of Laboratory Medicine

Rosa reported good progress with the translation of the Pearls into Spanish. So far 8 of the 12 Pearls have been translated; three have already been recorded and sent to the AACC and one has been linked to the e-Academy. The remaining 5 of 8 are on the way to be recorded. The four remaining Pearls are scheduled to be translated by October.