

147th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board October 22, 2020

Minutes

The 147th 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)
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)

1.1.146 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of September 17th, 2020

The minutes will be circulated and approved by email with any revisions.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan

Formation of New Taskforces:

13.1.17 Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS)

The call for nominations has been released, and the deadline is Oct 30th. A number of good nominations have been received and the final decision will be made by November. A Zoom call was held with International Society of Neonatal Screening (ISNS). They have considerable experience in this area and are willing to work with IFCC, including a position on the TF. Dr. Bonham will be a speaker for the next IFCC Webinar focused on newborn screening. KA will draft an MoU for the collaboration with ISNS.

13.1.18 Taskforce on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ)

The call for nominations has been released, and the deadline is Oct 30th. A number of good nominations have been received and the final decision will be made by November. The recent Webinar was very successful with over 2,500 people from 123 countries attending. There were a number of good questions from participants and many questions to follow up on after the webinar.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an EQA provider

There will be a “call for proposal” released for a commercial partner for the EQA program. KA will prepare a draft RFP for EB comments.

13.1.21 Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)

The call for nominations will be released this week. This TF will replace C-IdL and some of the current members may apply to be on the new TF. The C-IdL will continue, focusing on internet and social media communications. Live and recorded webinars will continue, including practical presentations and workshops on laboratory related topics that will be particularly helpful to developing countries. The format could be a few hours or several hours. Part-time coordinators from different areas of the world may be hired. TFs will meet monthly with 1-2 face to face meetings.

13.1.20 IFCC Reference Interval Database on the IFCC website (initial plans)

There is currently an IFCC committee that is active and could continue to work on this project with the TF, or may be expanded, perhaps with a WG to work on this project. The goal is that the IFCC should be the best resource for RIs in the world, for all ages, and free of charge. The plan is to work with Insoft to create a website to collate data from around the world and harmonize the data.

Corporate members will be invited to join the TFs and if the response is not sufficient, additional invitations will be sent out.

13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)

Recommendation for new Chair

The EB unanimously supported the recommendation for Patricia Ravalico to become the Chair of the TF-CM, effective January 2021.

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications for Full Membership

Application from “Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology”

RSA pointed out that MD associations are not part of COLABIOCLI according to Mexican laws governing professional societies. However, others commented that this should not prevent IFCC membership, and the IFCC does want to be open and inclusive to all Laboratory Professionals. If approved by the EB this will require Council approval.

2.4 Annual Dues for Full Members

Myanmar Medical Technologist Association (MMTA) - dues payment proposal

TO will propose a fee based on that charged to other members from a similar county with a similar economic situation.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.2 Applications for Corporate Membership

LumiraDx – UK

The LumiraDx application was previously approved by email.

3.40 Other Business

Subcommittee on new CM structure conference call outcome

This subcommittee had a productive initial meeting. RH will arrange one more meeting to finalize a proposal for the EB.

MedTech letter enquiry

The TF-CM has asked for a more definitive response from the EuroMedCode regarding entertainment at IFCC meeting that can provide clear direction to all Corporate members. PB will draft a follow up letter for DK to be sent to EuroMedCode.

5.0 Regional Organisations

Regional Federations updates

A proposal was prepared by KA and TO that will increase the annual grant to AFCC, AFCEB, APFCB and COLABIOCLI to 25,000 euros, effective 2021. Complete financial reporting will be required and will be audited. The EB approved (unanimous). KA will write to 4 Federations with this announcement, including the new financial reporting rules.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

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

WASPaLM Congress 2021

The IFCC was invited to submit a proposal and KA has submitted a symposium on the Value of Laboratory Medicine, with C-VPLM, KA and DK.

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)

Update on WorldLab 2022 and APFCB 2022 joint Congress

A Zoom meeting was held with APFCB, AACB and MZ. The WorldLab congress has been postponed to June 26-30, 2022. The suggestion now is to combine WorldLab with the APFCB 2022 Congress, as the meetings are too close and WorldLab would detract from APFCB meeting. Combining the meetings would also increase attendance for WL There would be a share of revenue for the APFCB. The next APFCB meeting could be held in Sydney in 2024. The proposal will need to be discussed further with the Korean society before a final decision and announcement is made. The scientific program will need to be reviewed and updated. KA and SSE to have Zoom call with Korean group, MZ and APFCB to discuss this.

7.4.10 Specialized Virtual Conference on “Critical Role of Clinical Laboratories in COVID 19 Pandemic”, 15-17 February 2021

Preliminary Program/Announcement

The Preliminary announcement and program for Specialized Virtual Conference has been sent out. The registration fee will not include VAT. MZ Congressi will be the PCO. The contract with MZ is being finalized and a virtual platform is being selected.

WorldLab guidelines

Proposal for joint WorldLab and Regional Conferences (EuroLabMed Model) for other 5 IFCC regional federations

KA suggested that going forward the local Federation should be included as a partner in WorldLab meetings and not just the National Society. The National Society currently gets a substantial amount of money that should be shared with the Federation. TO noted that the frequency of WL does not match regional conferences and it may not always be possible to organize such a joint meeting. However, KA suggested that if the IFCC has a meeting in a country then both NA and RF should be involved, just as is done with EuroMedLab. It was pointed out that it is difficult to organize a large meeting like WL in some countries where a regional meeting can be organized. Also some countries are difficult for vendors and international delegates to attend. The registration fees for large international meetings can be too high for delegates in developing countries. The predominant language of regional languages is not always English so this could also be a concern. Durban was a financially successful meeting but is a good example of a meeting that did not work well for all delegates

and sponsors. KA suggested that it would be a voluntary decision by NS and Federation, and we discuss this further at a later time.

7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)

Munich, May 16-20, 2021

Possible postponement to end of 2021

A Zoom meeting was held with IFCC, EFLM and Munich COC representatives and it was agreed to postpone the EuroMedLab congress to late November of 2021. Michael Neumaier prepared a proposal for a hybrid conference model that would include scientific and corporate involvement (with guided on-line tours with exhibitors). The TF-CM has reviewed the proposed model and suggested that the groups responsible for organizing conference participation for the companies need to comment on the proposal. It was agreed that there needs to be a discussion with the Corporate Members to get their input on the plan for IFCC Congresses, either in-person, virtual or hybrid meetings. There also has to be an understanding of the resultant costs to the sponsors. It was also agreed that the sponsors need to be given as much notice as possible of any decision to reschedule the meeting. The EB agreed to delay the congress and begin discussion on options (unanimous). KA will work with the EFLM to send out an announcement.

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI

León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022

March 28 – April 2, 2022

An invitation was sent to KA for the EB to participate in the COLABIOCLI meeting in Mexico in 2022, as per the agreement with COLABIOCLI. KA will forward the email to the EB.

7.3.7.6 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry - AFCC

Lusaka, Zambia

September 23-26, 2021

ABO provided the following request to the EB. "The next AFCC biannual conference will take place in Lusaka Zambia from 23rd to 26th of September 2021. We appreciate the fact that IFCC has agreed to mount 3 symposia. We solicit that IFCC EB add 2 more symposia so that IFCC can mount 5 symposia. Both Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Scientific Committee have been put in place. Academic program and flyers will be ready in four weeks. Also we have confirmed the venue. We will explore hybrid model for delivering the conference.

We have identified about 10 topics to start webinars which will be assessable to all member countries. We also plan to start training courses and workshops which young scientists can benefit from. We also hope that if situation permits that the IFCC EB will hold one of its meetings in Lusaka during this time."

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.13 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

IFCC Representative to the JCTLM Executive Committee, Gary Myers 2nd term approval.

The EB approved this request (unanimous). DK to advise Gary.

8.20 Membership

SD requests for renewal of membership terms as of Jan 2021

This will be considered using the new forms.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.20 Membership

EMD requests for renewal of terms as of Jan 2021

This will be considered using the new forms.

19.0 Meetings

19.1 Council meeting

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

EB planned Conference calls: November 24, December 8

The meeting dates are quite close together but it was agreed to proceed with both meetings to ensure that all business for the current EB is completed.

Milan office meeting:

A meeting at the Milan office with KA, DK, TO, IFCC Office staff and MZ in person will be arranged in the near future if possible.

EB meeting with new EB Members 2021-23

An invitation will be sent to the new EB members to attend one or both of the next two EB meetings.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

Forms for New and Renewal of functional group members

Forms to be used for the recommendation of new functional unit members, and the renewal of functional unit members were circulated by email to the EB for their opinion.

New EB Air travel Policy

Those members still on the Zoom call were in support of the proposed EB travel policy for the EB. An email vote will be circulated to include all EB members in the final decision.

IFCC office staff planning 2021

Deferred until the next meeting.

Where possible those Items that were not addressed at the meeting will be addressed by email, or deferred to the next meeting.