

148th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board November 24 - December 8, 2020

Minutes

The 148th 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)

EB 2021-2023 elected Members

Alexander Haliassos	(AHAL)	Treasurer – elect
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative – elect (ROCHE)
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	COLABIOCLI Representative - elect
Ana-Maria Šimundić	(AMS)	EFLM Representative – elect (excused on Nov. 24)
Stephen Hill	(SH)	NAFCC Representative - elect

1.0 Preliminaries

1.0 Opening remarks from President

Introduction and welcome of new members.

KA welcomed the new EB members who will be attending the last 2 meetings of the current EB as an introduction to their role on the EB.

KA thanked the outgoing EB members for their dedicated work for the IFCC over the last 3 year term, and said we will have some kind of a “thank-you” event after COVID when we can meet in person.

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

The final minutes were approved via email.

1.1.147 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of October 22nd, 2020

The draft minutes have been circulated.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan

KA gave a quick review of the new TFs and referred new EB members to the information that has been sent out with the invitations for member application.

a) Formation of New Taskforces:

13.1.17 Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS)

Call for nominations closed on October 30th and over 20 good nominations were received with representation from different parts of the world. All have experience in their own country or internationally. Those members that are not selected as full members can become corresponding members. Jim Bonham was suggested as chair or co-chair with an IFCC. ISNS will be a partner and will be on the TF. An MoU with ISNS is being drafted for EB review. The TF membership will be finalized by the end of December and the TF will start work in January 2021. KA will attend the first meeting or two to ensure the TFs have all the information to get started. KA will look into adding a YS member to each TF.

13.1.18 Taskforce on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ)

Call for nominations closed on Oct 30th and 18 good nominations have been received. The TF membership will be confirmed by the end of December, and those applicants not selected for full membership may serve as corresponding members. KA met with EMD Chair, C-AQ and DWCML, and the plan is to have one group focused on IQC and one on EQC under same TF. C-AQ and DWCML will be dissolved and some members from the existing committees will move to the new TF. KA has discussed with Victoria Zhang, Liezl Schewe and Loretta Doan possible collaboration with work the AACC is doing in on lab quality around the world. A call for proposal will go out for a corporate partner to provide EQA materials and software and it is hoped that a decision can be made in January 2021. JP noted that CSLI has a global health partnership in Africa would be another excellent group to partner with given their existing infrastructure and experience.

13.1.19 TF Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM)

KA met with C-VPLM and they will continue because they have been active and have a different focus from the new TF, but will coordinate with the new TF. The TF-OSLM will focus on outcome studies and evidence supporting the value of laboratory medicine. A live webinar is scheduled on this topic. The call for nominations to this taskforce will be sent out in January or early February.

13.1.20 IFCC Taskforce Global Ref Intervals consortium (TF-GRIDLC)

A meeting was held with INSOFT and C-RIDL to discuss establishing a Reference Interval Database on a website. The intent is to provide a global resource for all laboratories and healthcare institutions throughout the world and to try to harmonize RI data for all age populations from around the world. It was noted that Corporate Members will support this initiative. CSLI is updating a guidance document on RIs and just called for input (deadline Dec 18, 2020). KA stated that there is a representative from CALIPER (Victoria Higgins) and there will be someone representing IFCC.

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

Twelve nominations were received, including some previous committee members and the TF has been formed, along with 3 coordinators. The TF will identify potential topics and speakers and coordinators will take over to make the arrangements for the webinars. Four very successful webinars have been held to pilot the program and they demonstrate the level of interest in this activity. The goal is for 1 or 2 live webinars per month and others to be pre-recorded for the e-academy. IFCC Committees, WGs, Regional Federations and National Societies will be invited to contribute webinars. ABO and AHAL will be EB liaisons to the TF.

13.0 Task Forces

13.1.6 Task Force on Ethics (TF - E)

A meeting with the TF-E is scheduled for January 2021 to review their plans. The EB approved Nilda Fink as Chair for a second term, and Richard Davey was approved for a second term as a member. It was noted that AG was previously identified as a consultant. A liaison will be identified in January.

13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19

The TF has published articles in CCLM and on the IFCC website, and received positive comments.

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.4 Annual Dues for Full Members

Approval of Full Member applications

The application from the Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology was approved via email (majority). This will be voted on by Council from December 15 to January 15.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.2 Applications for Corporate Membership

The application from *Shenzhen YHLO Biotech Co Ltd.* was approved via email (unanimous).

3.40 Other Business

Corporate Membership Subcommittee

RH presented recommendations from the subcommittee. See RH report as emailed. CMs are made up of IVDs and distributors and there is a growing number of distributors, outnumbering traditional IVD manufacturers. The subcommittee (RH, RSA, TO, AG, JP, TR and DK) had 3 meetings and made the following recommendations: Corporate members that have not paid dues should not be eligible to vote or enjoy other member benefits. Corporate members that have not paid dues should not be eligible for a discount on IFCC exhibition fees. It was noted by PB that these two recommendations are already being followed. Thirdly, to assure appropriate qualification of the corporate representative on the IFCC Executive Board it is suggested to add new requirements for election consideration: Candidacy requires (1) history of active role in lower IFCC positions (member of working group or committee for at least 3 years as a full or corresponding member) and (2) IFCC membership of the company for at least 3 years in good standing. This should be evaluated by the IFCC Nominations Committee.

EB members were invited to the first 30 minutes of the upcoming TF-CM meeting. KA stated that, at some time, he would like a discussion of ToR for the TF-CM, including the potential role of the TF-CM to provide advice and recommendations to the EB when required. It was also noted that enhanced 2-way communication between the EB and TF-CM is an ongoing goal. KA pointed out that the problem of communication is both not having the right contact at company and the member not sharing the information with others in the company. The EB members will be given some time to consider this matter and there will be a vote by email.

5.0 Regional Organisations

Regional Federations updates

A letter will be sent to the 4 Federations (AFCB, AFCC, APFCB, COLABIOCLI) regarding an increase in funding to 4 regions and how the funds can be used, and the reporting required.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

- 6.13. World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)
WASPaLM Congress 2021
There has been no response yet to the proposal submitted for the WASPaLM Congress 2021.
- 6.40 Other Business
Proposal of MoU between IFCC and European Inter Societal Consensus Task Force (EISCTF)
KA discussed the concerns raised by the EB with Leslie Lai. It was determined that the IFCC cannot sign this MoU because it is with a group of individuals and not with a formal organization.
- ## **7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)**
- 7.2 International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ICCCLM)
IFCC WorldLab Congresses
- 7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)
Postponement to June 26-30, 2022
Update on WorldLab 2022 and APFCB 2022 joint Congress – Conf. call Nov 19th
The Korean society has concerns with the proposed combined meeting in conjunction with the APFCB. KA has received a letter from them and will reply in the hopes of convincing them to accept the proposal.
- 7.4.10 Specialized Virtual Conference on “*Critical Role of Clinical Laboratories in COVID 19 Pandemic*”, 15-17 February 2021
The preliminary program has been released, and will include symposiums from the Federations, from Industry and from the Young Scientists. The final program will be released soon. Sponsorship has been good and is expected to cover the meeting expenses. KA stated that there is no discount to the attendance fee for developing country members or EB members. There is no charge for participants. There was some discussion that the fee could be lower, however it was noted that the IFCC needs to cover expenses for the meeting (PCO and Virtual meeting platform), and any profit helps to support other IFCC educational activities. If individuals cannot afford the fee, arrangements can be made.
- WorldLab guidelines*
The latest guidelines were sent to EB for review. The EB agreed that applications to hold IFCC WorldLab meetings will be reviewed by C-CC first, with assistance from the PCO. TO and AHAL will check on the tax laws and rules associated with invoicing for and accepting registration fees, sponsorship contributions and other funds directly to IFCC accounts. At issue also, is that accepting funds into IFCC accounts avoids VAT charges. It was agreed to put the proposed revisions on hold until expert advice is received.
- 7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)
Munich, November 28 – December 2, 2021
MedTech Europe letter enquiry
Follow up on DGKL Annual meeting 2021
Guidelines for preparation of the scientific programme for an IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuroMedLab)
A new announcement has been sent out. There is good corporate sponsor support and a successful meeting is anticipated.
No response has been received from MedTech Europe on our last letter.
No response has been received from the German society regarding their plan to meet in October 2021. PB will contact them again to remind them that we must hear from them.

- 7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI
COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022
March 28 – April 2, 2022
The 2022 congress organization committee is in place and are starting to invite speakers. All presidents of COLABIOCLI will be invited to chair events. The organizers are hoping for good corporate participation and good in-person attendance, however the congress might need to also include virtual presentations. An Invitation went to the EB to hold a meeting there as part of the COLABIOCLI agreement, and to participate in the congress. This will be discussed at the next EB meeting. KA suggested Mexico and then Seoul for possible EB meetings. The EB will not propose a symposia since there are 8 proposals from the Divisions, and IFCC will support 3 symposia.
- 7.3.6.7 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology - AFCB)
Beirut – Lebanon
May 27 - 29, 2021
This will be a joint meeting with the EFLM and will include YS participation, and will be a hybrid meeting. Further information will be forthcoming.
- 7.20 Membership
Member renewal recommendations
The C-CC requests for member renewals as of Jan 2021 will be considered by email.
- 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)
Update on approval of the MoU with SSC/ISTH
The EB supported this revised MoU and KA will sign the document. DK will advise Christa Cobbaert and Philippe Gillery.
- 8.20 Membership
Member renewal recommendations
The SD requests for member renewals as of Jan 2021 were approved.
- 9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)**
9.20 Membership
EMD requests for terms renewal as of Jan 2021
The EMD requests for member renewals as of Jan 2021 were approved.
- 9.2.10 Committee on distance learning (C - DL)
The C-DL will be discontinued and their activities assumed by TF-GEL with some members of C-DL joining the new TF.
- 9.2.16 Committee of Value Proposition for Lab Med (C - VPLM)
C-VPLM Zoom meeting - update on future plans
KA met with the C-VPLM committee and it was agreed that it will continue, and will cooperate with the new TF-OSLM.
- Pearls of Laboratory Medicine translation into Spanish*
RSA reported that the contract translator had performed an update of the template for all Pearls. Four have been updated and recorded, and two sent to AACC. By end of December the rest should go to the AACC.

9.4. Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

The EMD proposed that VLP lectures, IFCC-Abbott symposia/workshops, may be presented as webinars.

KA proposed that we double the funding for VLP and expand exchange program funding too.

Sedef Yenice was recommended as the new Chair of the VLP Committee 2021-2023, and Nadir Rifai will become the Chair of the EMD.

9.4.3 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

The DQCML was discontinued and the chair will join the new TF-GLQ.

10.00 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.20 Membership

Member renewal recommendations

The CPD requests for membership renewals as of Jan 2021 were approved.

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

11.2.11 ICPLM Satellite Conference in May 2021

Zoom meeting with ICPLM chair

KA met with ICPLM chair and encouraged them to hold a satellite meeting as part of EuroMedLab congress in November 2021, and to provide webinars as well.

11.3.2 WG - Volatolomics (WG-Vol)

ETD Chair proposal to close WG-Vol

The EB supported the recommendation to close the WG-Vol, since it has achieved its objectives.

11.8 Proposal of new WGs

The ETG proposed 2 new WGs: Artificial Intelligence and Genomic Diagnostics (WG-AIGD), Chair

Larry Kricka (US) and Single cells and Spatial Transcriptomics (WG-SCST), Chair Andrew South (US). The EB approved both new WGs. It will be verified that the WG-AIGD should not provide in-house work to set up testing, but rather provide information and resources to help labs set up the testing for themselves.

11.20 Membership

Member renewal recommendations

The ETD requests for member renewals as of Jan 2021 were approved.

12.00 IFCC Awards

Presentation of IFCC Awards

The EB agreed to announce the IFCC Awards initially at the IFCC Council meeting and then make a more detailed presentation as part of the IFCC Global Conference on COVID-19. A celebration dinner for the award winners will be held at the first opportunity.

13.03 Scholarships

Decision about postponement to EuroMedLab Munich / WorldLab Seoul

This matter was deferred for discussion until January, 2021.

15.50 Financial Matters

Treasurer report and 2021 Budget approval

TO presented a summary of the current IFCC finances as previously distributed to the EB.

The initial

forecast for expenses was over-estimated due to the unanticipated impact of COVID in reducing

meetings and travel expenses. Thus the projected deficit will not be realized. The budget requests from the functional groups were approved and TO will advise the Chairs, and will remind them to continue to limit travel expenses during the COVID pandemic.

19.0 Meetings

19.1 Council meeting – proposed date: Thursday January 28, 2021, to be confirmed.

19.1.24 January 2021 Council meeting

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

Lake Maggiore: March 4-5, 2021 full days, 6th ½ day am – to be evaluated based on pandemic development

EB meetings 2021 – to be held monthly via zoom/dates to be decided

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

EB Air travel class of service

The EB voted by email to approve the revised policy of air travel for EB members.

President:

- Economy class for local flights under 6 hours
- Business class for international flights over 6 hours; the cost not exceeding 3500 Euros

EB Members:

- Economy class for local flights under 6 hours
- Upgradable FLEX Economy class for international flights over 6 hours; the cost not exceeding 2500 Euros

Under special circumstances, EB members can contact and receive approval from the IFCC President to purchase higher upgradable tickets.

IFCC Office Staff Planning

This matter postponed to early 2021 based on the need for additional support for the new TFs.