

155th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board September 13th and 14th, 2021

Minutes

The 155th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in person, and via Zoom Conference for those not able to travel.

Lake Maggiore, Belgirate (Italy)

Participants:

EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President - in person
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary - in person
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer - connected via zoom
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative (ROCHE) connected via zoom
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) connected via zoom, joined on Day 2
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB) connected via zoom
Sunil Sethi	(SSE)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB) connected via zoom, joined on Day 2
Ana-Maria Šimundić	(AMS)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM) connected via zoom, not able to attend
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) connected via zoom
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC) in person

Invited guest:

Sergio Bernardini	(SB)	ETD Chair – in person
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Preliminaries

Opening remarks from President

- *EuroMedLab 2021 in Munich*

The COC and MZ have expressed some concern regarding attendance at EML. KA stated that we need to launch a campaign to broadly advertise the EML Congress and promote attendance, and asked all EB members to encourage members in their region to attend the meeting. It has been agreed that the congress will be a Hybrid Conference for parts of scientific sessions, (ie. main conference hall and one other meeting room). The cost is estimated to be about 23,000 Euros for about 500 virtual attendees. The Division functional groups will be encouraged to meet at the conference and PB and DK will investigate the option for virtual attendance (Zoom). Some Corporate Sponsors have asked about the possibility of refunds if attendance is not as great as usual and options are being considered, including providing free virtual workshops to sponsors and discounts for future congresses. Notice of the hybrid option will be advertised in October. KA and DK will work with Office on a campaign. All Regional Federation members, and IFCC Champions should promote attendance at this meeting.

- *Updates to EuroMedLab and WorldLab guidelines and Development of a uniform conference guideline*

The WorldLab guidelines were reviewed in detail at the EB meeting and after formatting will be ready to go out with the request for bids from National Societies to hold the 2024 WorldLab congress. (KA, DK, AHA, PL and PB)

- *Development of an IFCC Virtual Platform*

Future IFCC congresses will be hybrid and we will investigate developing an IFCC platform that can accommodate a few hundred to thousands of attendees and be customized to our needs and will be more cost effective than using commercial products. Need to see if this is feasible and the cost. Also need to consider the production process and costs, and the central repository for these productions. To be discussed further at a later meeting.

- *Call for Proposals for 2024 and 2026 WorldLabs*

The request for bids for WL 2024 will go out by end of week, and the request for 2026 will go out in January, so as not to create confusion and to allow any unsuccessful bidder from 2024 to bid for 2026.

- *IFCC Regional and Corporate Member Townhalls*

Everything is in place for first 2 THs - EFLM/AFCB/AFCC and the Corporate members. There will be short presentation by KA, and perhaps AHA and DK (JP for the Corporate Members TH. The date for the NAFCC/COLABIOCLI TH will be confirmed by SH and AMLR. The tentative date for the APFCB T (October 20) will be confirmed by SSE.

- *IFCC Global Lab Week*

Call for Nominations from Regional Federations. Current members include KA, Rajiv Erasmus (co-chairs), DK, Endang Hoyaranda, Bernard Gouget, Khushbu Patel, Eduardo Freggiaro, and Silvia Colli-Lanzi. Global Lab Medicine Week. The IFCC has initiated a new program (IFCC Global Lab Medicine Week) to celebrate the vital role of laboratory medicine and laboratory professionals in both public health and patient care. This program aims to create awareness of the critical contribution of laboratory medicine to health care, and to celebrate the important role of all Lab Professionals around the world. Each year a specific theme will be chosen to highlight an aspect of lab medicine that demonstrates our "value of lab medicine" message. The event is a worldwide opportunity to focus on key public health and patient care issues. The Global Lab Medicine Week will be celebrated in April of each year starting in 2022 and throughout the year at all future IFCC international or regional conferences and events.

The IFCC's Vision for Global Lab Medicine Week will follow the theme "Celebrating the Vital Role of Lab Medicine and Lab Professionals in Public Health & Patient

Care" The 2021-2022 Focus/Theme will be "The Laboratory's Vital Role in the Global Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic"

There will be a call for nominations for Regional Federation members and Young Scientists. Corporate involvement will also be added. It is important to note that this initiative is focused globally and beyond what is done now, and will celebrate the good work of lab professionals but will also educate others (other healthcare providers, hospital administration, politicians, and the public) about the valuable contribution of Lab medicine to health care. It will be a Lab Week but also an ongoing year-long initiative. The group is working on the terms of reference and a media company bid document for the end of year. An announcement of the Lab Week will be made at the Munich meeting. April of 2022 will be the first celebration.

- *Proposed membership for the New Taskforces (TF-GRID and TF-OSLM)*
The nominations have been reviewed by KA and DK. A list of recommended members was presented to the EB. For OSLM the members chosen are Colleen Strain (Abbott), Jennifer Ann Snyder (Siemens), Zhen Zhao (USA), Claudio Ivan Suarez Sanchez (Chile), Muhittin Serdar (Turkey) and Eseban Mauricio Simbaqueba Sacher (IL/Werfen). Andrew St John will join as a link to the C-VPLM, and a Young Scientist will be added. DK will be the EB liaison. For GRID the members chosen were Peter Ridefelt (Sweden), Alexander Benedikt Leichtle (Switzerland), Ken Sikaris (Aus), Edward Chun Cheung Wong (USA), Abdurrahm Coskun (Turkey), Nikolay Mayanskiy (Russia), and Jeanne Rhea-McManus (Siemens). Yesim Ozarda will be the liaison to the C-RIDL, and a Young Scientist will be added. KA will be the EB liaison. The EB approved the membership.
A letter will be sent to the new members of both groups to ensure members understand the mandate and their role (KA and DK).
- *IFCC Foundation*
Foundation has been inactive, and KA to write to Graham Beastall for his suggestion as to the future of the foundation.
- *WorldLab Conference in Seoul: promotion plans, scholarships, etc*
KA stated that there should be an effort to promote the meeting and encourage attendance. The Scholarships (10 from IFCC) should be announced as soon as possible. KA, DK and AHA should meet with the COC in October to discuss promotion of the meeting and scholarships from the APFCB. The current travel situation in Korea with respect to COVID needs to be investigated. This meeting needs to have a Virtual attendance option.
- *Appointment of a New Accounting Firm for IFCC: Discussions/Meeting with KPMG (Italy & Switzerland) – Update/Final Contract.*
A meeting is planned with KPMG on September 15, 2021 to finalize the agreement. The 2 options provided by KPMG will be reviewed.
- *IFCC Accreditation Program*
The goal initially is to provide accreditation of National Society member educational events. The accreditation will need to meet the requirements of professional agencies in the NS countries, and may be accredited by some recognized body. SH has prepared an initial document outlining a plan and will expand the plan to include EMD and C-CC input. SH, KA and DK will meet with Nader Rifai and Päivi Laitinen.
- *Enhancing collaborations with WASPaLM*
The WASPaLM Congress was rescheduled to May 5-8, 2022 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The presentation and speakers will be confirmed by KA and DK.
- *Initiating an MOU with ICHOM (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement)*
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- *Shaping IFCC's Digital Future: A Global Lab Med Digital Education Plan*
This item was deferred to the next meeting.

- 1.1.154 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of July 28th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated.
- Action List from 154th EB Meetings
The action items were reviewed and ongoing issues are addressed in the current agenda.
- 13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS) – Liaison: SH**
The survey of NBS needs is completed and is being evaluated to determine the plan going forward.
- 13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ) – Liaison: SSE**
Development of a partnership framework for the first pilot program in 2021
Recent Progress update
The second call for proposals for a corporate partner has gone out with more detailed specifics of the pilot project for 10 countries to start in the fall, and included EQA and IQC. Four of the expected six companies have submitted a bid and a decision should be made in the fall, possibly including more than one provider.
- 13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL) – Liaison: AMLR**
The EF has been very active. Multiple webinars with international speakers have been presented and others are scheduled. There continues to be thousands of registrants for the webinars, from over 100 countries. EB members are invited to suggest future webinars KA suggests that there should be a standard format for webinar presentations, and a guide will be developed (KA).
- COLABIOCLI has presented a number of webinars in Spanish that are being translated into English and AMLR feels the quality and service are good and should continue.
- The budget is currently sufficient for the cost of the webinar platform, coordinators, and translations. Funds are available for other educational activities (courses, workshops, etc.) and suggestions from the EB are welcomed.
- AH asked if it would be possible to translate some webinars into French. KA suggested that AH speak to AMLR, Agostina, Paul and Bernard Gouget about translation into French.
- 13.0 Task Forces**
- 13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E) – Liaison: AMS**
The TF-E Code of Ethics guide is to be used by IFCC members, and can be modified as appropriate for different countries. SH suggested that perhaps we should expect all members to have a code that is comparable with this one and could perhaps be a requirement for membership. KA asked if the task force has completed its work and could perhaps close at the end of 2023, or sooner. If we end the TF, we could continue with a consultant to advise the EB on such issues. KA will talk to chair about plans for next few years. AMLR noted that many COLABIOCLI countries do not have a research ethics review committee to review investigations and provide ethics approval. KA will raise the issue with the TF-E.
- 13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS) – Liaison: AHA**
Update: AHA
The T-YS contributed a session to the IFCC Virtual Conference in February, and presented a webinar on Mass Spectrometry in June. Two articles describing mentorship experiences have been submitted to the IFCC e-news. Efforts to reach corresponding members have been successful, and local or regional YS groups are being created to expand activities. The LATAM leadership workshop was very successful with participants

from Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina. The survey on laboratory medicine residency training programs around the world has been completed and approved and is being designed for release on SurveyMonkey. PSEPs are being promoted at every opportunity but due to COVID no PSEPs are scheduled. Four sessions are planned for the TF-YS Symposium for EML Munich: Motivation in the Clinical Laboratory (Santiago Fares Taie), Time Management Tools for the Young Laboratory Professional (Joe El-Khoury), Basic Principles of Sample and Data Management (Giulia Sancesario), Conflict Management Amongst Young Laboratory Scientists (Ashlin Rampul). A TF-YS open meeting with the German YS Society and the EFLM YS-WG is planned. A YS Forum is planned for the COLABIOCLI 2022 in Mexico, where the LATAM YS-WG will be launched. The TF-YS is working on an initiative suggested by Marie Lenski (LiveMyLab) to prepare videos that illustrate total laboratory operations. Three videos per year are planned at an estimated cost of approximately 2,000 euros each.

13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H) – Liaison: AHA

The TF-H is working on the 70th IFCC anniversary history book and good progress is being made. They have received information from some of the NSs, Federations and individuals, but need more input from Asian, African and Arab countries. They have reviewed all the past minutes from the IFCC Office.

13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM) – Liaison JP

The TF-CM is meeting monthly. The yearly survey is ongoing, with a deadline of September 30. The TF is working on a welcoming package for new Corporate Members. In October they will look at comments on the welcome package that will go out to new and existing members at the time of dues renewal, along with survey.

In preparation for the CM Townhall, JP has prepared slides with questions from CMs, including questions about IVDR, which is an issue not just for Europe but for the rest of the world as well. Questions about the attendance at EML are also expected. The TH-CM plans to meet in person at EML.

13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19 – Liaison KA

Update: KA

The TF-COVID 19 has completed most of their objectives and is working on their last guideline – on immunity and antibody testing. A meeting is planned for the fall to discuss this guideline.

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.4 Annual Dues

Invoices for the 2020 dues have gone out, and the response is similar to previous years. Reminders will go out at the end of September.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 WHO

ABO reported that communication with WHO has improved significantly. ABO is participating in regular discussions and will provide updates to the EB. KA asked ABO to follow up with the WHO contact regarding an in person meeting in October or November, including KA, DK, AHA and ABO.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

KA is working with Päivi on the EML Guideline and it will be reviewed by EFLM prior to final acceptance.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)
SSE confirmed that the APFCB Regional congress is integrated into the WorldLab Seoul Congress, with some minor details to finalize. SSE will contact the Korean group for any updates, and KA would like to work with the organizers to develop a plan to promote the meeting. It was noted that there is strong corporate interest in the congress with additional requests for sponsorship being received.

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI
COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022
March 30 – April 2, 2022
AMRL reported that the final program will be available at the end of September, and will include presentations from the IFCC Divisions.

AH reported that the ACB congress in Lebanon has been postponed due to problems in that country, and no new date has been identified. It is expected that a meeting will be organized in another country.

ABO reported that the congress in Zambia has been postponed and a new date not yet decided. ABO will send an email with update when available.

7.40 Other Business

Abbott request

Abbott has requested a UNIVANTS Roundtable, and a Satellite Workshop on the Value of Laboratory Medicine for WorldLab Seoul. We are waiting for more details from Abbott.

WorldLab Rome 2023

S Bernardini noted that there have not yet been any suggestions from the International Scientific Advisory Board for WorldLab Rome 2023. A reminder can go out if necessary.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.20 Membership

EB liaison to C-NPU

JP will contact Philippe Gillery regarding a new EB liaison to C-NPU. It is recognized that this position requires a person with a specialized expertise. One option would be to combine this position with the representative from SD.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD) - Liaison: DK

9.40 Other

Document Cloud storage

The IFCC Office has researched options for Cloud storage of documents from IFCC functional group and will present these to DK at the meeting in the Milan Office.

AHA also suggested that we should have a central document storage system for all IFCC EB documents that can be accessed by current and future officers. KA stated that emails should be private and only documents should be stored and accessible to all IFCC officers. We will start with cloud storage of documents.

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) – liaison SH

ETD report, update SB

Sergio Bernardini made a presentation on the activities of the ETD. See attached [Power Point presentation](#).

A number of second term requests were presented and SB will complete the necessary forms to formalize the recommendations.

A project to set up POCT genetic testing in developing countries was discussed. A more complete proposal, including the pilot and the expected longer term objectives and plans for the project will be submitted for review.

11.2.1 ICPLM Satellite Conference in May 2021

The ICPLM Satellite Conference was postponed to November 2021 prior to EuroMedLab. The committee has raised some sponsorship funding and IFCC will also provide support. An announcement has been made and the meeting will be a Hybrid meeting. *Note that subsequent to the EB meeting it was decided to hold this meeting as a virtual event only.*

11.02.03 Committee for Omics Translations (C-OT) Closure of C-OT was approved by the EB.

12.00 IFCC Awards

Awardees and Sponsors have been informed about postponement of the IFCC Awards ceremony to EuroMedLab Munich. Invitations have been sent but so far a number of the winners are not able to attend in Munich and we may need to further postpone the formal ceremony to WorldLab Seoul

13.03 Scholarships

Decision about postponement to EuroMedLab Munich / WorldLab Seoul.
The Scholarships selected for WL Seoul 2020 were asked if they wish to use the scholarship to attend the EML Munich or to attend WL Seoul. We are waiting for responses. Details on all scholarships needs to be completed so that advertising for the scholarships can go out in October or November, along with additional promotion to attend the meeting. PB will begin working with JP on the agreement for the Roche YS Scholarships.

15.00 Finances

15.2 Treasurer report

IFCC finances management – Recruitment of an international accounting firm:

KPMG offer

Next steps

AHA reported that there are no issues with the IFCC finances, including IFCC investments. There is a 600,000 SF surplus at this time and expenses continue to be low due to COVID and limited travel. Some current NS membership dues are outstanding but no more than expected. Some NS will pay on site at IFCC meetings.

The change to a having a major meeting every year will help solve the problem of not having funding in the third year, without a major meeting revenue, and will make budgeting easier.

19.0 Meetings

19.1.24 Council meeting

The Council meeting will be held as in person event at EuroMedLab Munich Congress, on Sunday November 28, 2021. The meeting will also be virtual for those members who are not able to attend in person.

19.6.00 General Conference

Proposal for 2-3 days GC in April or October 2022. Organization by MZ Congressi

Venues explored: Helsinki and Frankfurt. Additional proposed cities: Brussels, Milan (Rho-Fiera), Dubrovnik, Warsaw, Lisbon.
Further options on-going.

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Executive Board Meetings – in person:

An in person/virtual EB meeting was held at Lake Maggiore: September 13th - 14th (1 full day + ½ day am), follow by the first EFLM/AFCB/AFCC townhall from the IFCC Office in Milan.

The next EB meeting is planned for December 1st – 2nd at EML Munich. This will be an in person meeting with a virtual option for those who cannot travel.

Next meeting after Munich will be in Mexico in April after the COLABIOCLI Congress. The dates will be confirmed at a later time.

PB will ask for an update from other 3 Divisions (SD, CPD and EMD) prior to the Munich congress, and for a meeting with the EB in Munich.

16.0

Organisational Matters

16.1

KA, DK (in person) and AHA (virtual) will meet with the Office staff on September 15, 2021, and DK will meet with Office staff on September 16.