

## 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board October 26 and 27, 2022

### Summary Minutes

The 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in Brussels (BE) prior to the IFCC General Conference.

#### Participants

##### EB Members:

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative (ROCHE)
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB): attend virtually.
Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM)
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC): Not available.

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#### AGENDA ITEMS from 162<sup>nd</sup> EB meeting

##### 1.0 Preliminaries

##### 1.0 Opening remarks from President

##### *IFCC General Conference and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans*

KA welcomed EB members to the meeting in conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A number of special guests have been invited, including the Balkan Federation, FIFBCML, WASPaLM, EQUAM, and WHO. KA and the EB extended best wishes to SH for a speedy recovery.

##### *Website Redevelopment*

The current website is more than 10 years old and an update is needed. The new IT company (Digiwedo) from Rotterdam has been working on a new redesigned website that will include a larger screen view, a new background colour, more links, and a fresh cleaner appearance. All information from the current website will be retained. The cost is expected to be approximately 30,000 euros. **KA will address a few suggestions from the EB with Digiwedo.** Digiwedo is also working on database designs for new TFs.

#### *Dubai 2024 WorldLab COC and Scientific Congress Committee Membership*

The COC and the SPC membership was approved by the EB. The COC will include two Corporate Representatives. It was agreed to increase the ISC membership to 4-5 persons from each of the Regional Federations. They should be good scientists and good representatives for the Regions. KA will revise the terms of reference for the ISC and send to the EB. **The Federation Representatives on the EB should solicit nominations from their Region. DK will contact the NAFCC.**

#### *Rome 2023 EuroMedLab COC update – Accreditation of Scientific Program*

There is a COC meeting on Nov 17. The Scientific Program is complete and printed. It is an excellent program but a future goal should be to have broader international participation. The plan is for this meeting and all future IFCC congress/meetings and other educational events to be accredited for continuing education credits. The options for Rome were to use a third party accreditation agency, or collaborate with the EFLM who has been working on an accreditation program and has been recognized by the EU as an accrediting body. KA met with Sedef and her EFLM committee and they have agreed to accredit the Rome Congress and already working with MZ on the program.

There will be a one day Young Scientist Symposium.

There will be three satellite sessions: POCT, paediatrics and clinical mass spectrometry.

Sponsorship is good so far: two platinum, four gold, four silver, and about 10 bronze. It is anticipated that sponsorship will be about the same as for Munich. Promotion to delegates will start six months before the congress. The Hilton hotel next to the conference centre is not completed yet but it is anticipated to be ready in January, 2023, and a contingency is in place.

#### *IFCC-Chinese Society of Lab Medicine Joint Conference 2023 Shanghai*

It is not possible to move forward with the planning for this meeting at this time, and the meeting will not occur in 2023.

#### *Updates/Changes to IFCC Professional Exchange Program*

The program has been advertised and there was a recent call for applications, with another call planned to go out in March, 2023. The response to the first call was quite good and the budget will be more than doubled to 100,000 CHF, if the demand is there. In the summer there was also a call for laboratories to host Exchange Scientists, and response was quite good. It would be ideal to have more hosts in Western countries.

#### *IFCC Virtual Platform*

The InEvent Training for the Office has been completed, and the platform will be used for the GC in Brussels and for all future EB meetings. Additional training for other users will be planned as needed. Connection from the hotel has been good but PB noted that it was more work for the Office staff to set up InEvent as compared to Zoom, and only 17 participants can attend interactively. It is hoped that once the system is set up and in routine use, the additional features (better picture quality, screen shots, audience polling, etc) will make it more desirable. The cost of InEvent for the GC is about 20,000 Euros, plus local IT support costs of about 30,000 Euros (for a large congress). This is very favourable compared to the 120,000 Euros cost of the COVID virtual conference. The Wordcast platform will continue to be used for the Webinars, for now at least.

#### *IFCC-JCTLM-ICHCLR Relationship/Concerns/Proposed Changes*

Currently JCTLM is funded by BIPM and IFCC (50,000 Euros each). There are two other partners and a number of stakeholders and partners who currently do not provide funding. Greg Miller is chair of JCTLM and is representing IFCC. KA made a proposal (through Gary Myers, the IFCC representative) that the other two partners (ILAC and ICSH) society) provide some funding as well (some contribution), and perhaps also the stakeholders if they are able to (a voluntary contribution). Contributors of material should not be charged.

Because JCTLM is considered a government agency, it cannot charge for services provided, but it may be possible for the IFCC to charge on their behalf, and that can be investigated. The new database is being designed at a cost of 140,000 Euros. The chair of the SD now sits on the JCTLM Executive Committee.

#### *ICHCLR Council Proposal*

The ICHCLR began in the US as part of AACC, under Gary Myers and Greg Miller, but was taken over by IFCC. Its main purpose is to prioritize measurands for standardization. Sverre is chair of this group and is the IFCC EB representative to this group. The ICHCLR had not been particularly active and now want to develop WGs to work on different projects, which the SD sees as a potential conflict with what the SD is doing. KA spoke to Gary who agreed that developing WGs was not really an ICHCLR function. KA will write back that that IFCC does not support the proposal for ICHCLR to set up independent WGs, but the IFCC SD will set up WGs that they could join.

#### *Meeting with IFCC SD and Concerns from IFCC SD*

Phillipe and Christa expressed concern that JCTLM is wanting to set up their own WGs on harmonization. The SD concern is that there would be potential for conflict and confusion. KA suggested that the IFCC SD needs to demonstrate more activity in harmonization and not just focus on standardization. There is general agreement from the SD that it should become more active on harmonization and not just standardization, and this is supported by Christa, the incoming Chair. The EB agreed that the ICHCLR should not be setting up Working Groups on harmonization, but instead the IFCC SD should set up the WGs and ICHCLR members should be asked to be members.

Vincent Delatour, Hubert Vesper and Sara Whitford were approved as new SD EC members and Kostas Makris will be the new co-chair. Christa identified future areas of interest for the SD, including proteomics, genomics, metabolomics, compliance with IVD regulations, precision diagnostics, better cooperation with stakeholders and bioinformatics. Phillipe was asked to become the IFCC representative to C-NPU and will consider this.

#### *Updates to IFCC Conference Guidelines: WorldLab and EuroMedLab*

KA has drafted some additional changes to the guidelines, including: SPC clarification, approval of scientific program, regional content, broader selection of speakers and topics, international advisory board, and symposia design. **KA will send EB the final draft for approval.**

#### *New IFCC Taskforce on Environmental Impact of Lab Medicine: Terms of Reference and Call for Nominations (January 3, 2023)*

KA and DK have drafted proposed Terms of Reference for the new Taskforce on Environmental Impact of Lab Medicine that was shared with EB. It was noted that the EFLM has done a great deal of work on the “green lab” initiative, and wherever possible the IFCC should not duplicate those efforts, but rather focus on support of non-European developing countries, and on the laboratory testing in humans for the investigation of environmental chemical exposure (biomonitoring). **DK and KA will work with PB to get out a call for member nominations in the first week of January.** The TF should start in March/April 2023.

#### *Proposal for a 2nd IFCC virtual meeting on COVID-19*

G. Lippi has proposed a 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual meeting on COVID-19. There was concern that the subject may be too focused on clinical material and not as much on laboratory issues. It was suggested that it may be more useful to focus on pandemics in general, plus lessons learned from COVID-19 and how to be better prepared for the next pandemic. In general there was support for this, but more information is needed on specifics before a decision can be made. **KA to ask G. Lippi for more detail on content and how the symposia will relate to laboratory and not just medical issues.**

*Global MEDLAB Week 2023 – Plans by the Committee on Public Relations*

The C-PR has taken this project on. KA is working with C-PR and Rajiv, and a list of activities has been prepared. The contest will be every year. Endang will be liaison to C-PR meetings. This year's contest will award a first prize of 500 Euro, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 300 Euro and 3<sup>rd</sup> of 200 Euro.

*FIFBCML-Francophone Federation Interest in IFCC Affiliation*

The EB met with a delegation from FIFBCML on Friday, Oct 28 at 12:30. This group would like to be affiliated with the IFCC in some way. There is support from EB so long as the Federation is focused on Laboratory Medicine. The FIFBCML will draft a MoU for EB consideration.

*New initiative on development of IFCC Practice Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine*

KA felt that the IFCC should take the lead on developing or promoting some guidelines for laboratories (not clinical guidelines), especially in developing countries. Simple and short guidelines that focus on specific issues in lab medicine; not create new guidelines but summarize existing consensus guidelines, focusing on the lab's role. These could also be lab based procedure documents, such as validation of methods, validation of reference ranges, etc. The TF-COVID published 12 papers that were basically guidelines, and have been adapted by many labs around the world. The IFCC guidelines would be offered to labs at no cost. It was suggested that this could perhaps be done though, or in conjunction with, existing functional groups (EMD for example), but some person or group would need to coordinate this after it is initiated (ie. identify topics, edit documents, create a standard format, advertise, and share guidelines). It was suggested to start small with a pilot of a few guidelines only. KA will discuss further with others, including Nader, and then a meeting with the chairs of the divisions will be arranged to get their input (possibly at the end of February 2023).

*Special Guests at 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Conference:*

- WASPaLM Incoming and Outgoing Presidents invited to GC  
Dr. Roberto Verna is attending GC and there will be a meeting with EB.  
WASPALM is pleased with the current relationship with IFCC and would like to identify other areas of common interest to work on. One item mentioned at the WASPaLM congress is the WHO list of essential tests.
- BCLF (Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation): BCLF president, Dr. Dobrin Svinarov.  
Dr. Svinarov is attending the GC and there will be a meeting with the EB.  
The Balkan Federation wants to have a formal relationship with IFCC. The Balkan group will draft a MOU for the IFCC to consider.
- EQALM (European Organisation for External Quality Assurance): EQALM, Dr. Buchta, the President, is attending the GC and there will be a meeting with the EB.
- Dr. Moussy, from WHO, will be presenting at the GC and there will be a meeting with the EB.

- 1.1.159 Minutes of the in-person meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Munich  
The Final and Summary minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.160 Minutes of the in-person meeting June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> – Seoul  
The Final and Summary minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.161 Minutes of Zoom meeting of September 6<sup>th</sup>  
The Final minutes have been circulated.

## Action Items from 160<sup>th</sup> and 161<sup>st</sup> EB Meetings

### *Progress with the Action Items*

Forms are needed for the evaluation of the functional groups, members and the chairs, success in meeting objectives, and any concerns. To be complete as soon as possible to go out in January with the request for Annual Report information.

The IFCC Statutes need to be revised with respect to membership, for approval from Council.

ABO will arrange a meeting with ASLM to discuss a new MoU.

A meeting with Joris Delange regarding a WG on IVD will be held at the GC.

## **15.00 Finances**

### **15.2 Treasurer report**

AHA presented a detailed financial report at the GC. Many expenses for the year have not yet been realised, including those from the GC, but no issues are expected with respect to the IFCC finances.

### **13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS)**

The Taskforce submitted a request to hold a 2-day workshop in South Africa at a cost of 30,000 Euros. The EB suggested that it would be sufficient for the TF to focus on one or two countries initially, and meet with the local IFCC member society and the government ministry, so as to get the program started. **KA will meet with TF to communicate the EB decision on the workshop and suggestions to move forward.**

### **13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ)**

For the Pilot, external QC material is being tested in 10 countries, 5 labs in each, and at AHA's lab as a reference. The results will be presented at the GC.

### **13.1.19 Task Force on Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM)**

#### *Proposal for Study Grant Requests*

Grants applications have been reviewed by the TF and 5 proposals selected to receive funding. Agreements will be signed and funding will be transferred to the recipients' universities, in trust.

#### *Database for literature on outcome studies*

The TF-OSLM will be meeting with Digiwedo at the GC to discuss the specifics for the database. The TF will be presenting at the GC.

### **13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals database (TF-GRID)**

#### *Global Reference Interval Database*

The TF-GRID is working with Digiwedo on a database for the international reference interval data that will be implemented in 2 or 3 phases. The TF will be presenting at the GC.

### **13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)**

#### *Live Webinar Program*

The Live webinar program continues to be a success, providing webinars every 2 weeks that are very well attended by members around the world. Sessions have been provided in Spanish and Chinese, and sessions are planned to be given in French. The sessions will be accredited for continuing education credits. KA suggested that there should be a review

of the proposed speakers to ensure that they are recognized experts in the area being presented.

#### *Adaptive Learning Platform*

Nader met with the TF-GEL to brief them on the adaptive learning platform and address any concerns. The Adaptive Learning Platform covers a wide range of clinical chemistry topics, for a range of expertise, and will be translated into other languages. Continuing Education Credits will be provided.

#### *IFCC Accreditation Program*

The goal is for the Rome and Dubai Congresses to be accredited for Continuing Education Credits.

A meeting will be held with Smeralda, Nader and DK to discuss the plan for accreditation of IFCC educational activities.

### **13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS)**

KA and AH will be meeting with the TF-YS at the GC.

### **13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H)**

#### *IFCC 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary History book*

The updated book has been prepared for the GC and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The new history book will be completed for the Rome EML.

### **13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)**

JP will be meeting with the TF-CM at the GC. There will be the TC-CM symposia at the GC.

JP advised the EB that he is retiring mid 2024 after 40 years with Roche, and will not be running for a second term (2024) as the Corporate Representative to the EB.

## **2.0 Full Member Societies**

2.3

Possible withdrawal

*Outstanding since 2019 include:*

*Kazakhstan Association of Medical Laboratory Diagnostic (KAMLD)*

*Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Science (NAMLS)*

*Jordan Society for Medical Laboratory Sciences*

*Sudanese Society of Clinical Biology*

The AFCB has offered to use some of the yearly grant provided by IFCC to pay for the outstanding dues for societies above, for the pandemic period of 2020, 2021 and 2022 only. Perhaps the other Federations will do the same thing.

*The Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU) fees*

The ACCLMU has requested that their 2022 dues be waived due to the critical situation in their country. The EB voted unanimously to waive the 2022 fees for the Ukraine.

## **3.0 Corporate Members**

3.3

Withdrawal

*Nova Biomedical*

**There has been no response to the letter sent on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and thus the membership for Nova Biomedical will be cancelled.**

3.4

Annual Dues

Update 2022 dues

MegaLab has not paid their dues.

LabTronic has not paid their dues.

**The Office will try to contact LabTronic by email, and if there is no response we will wait until after the Rome Congress registration to withdraw membership.**

#### **4.0 Affiliate Members**

##### **4.2 Applications**

*Botswana Institute for Clinical Laboratory Professionals (BICLP)*

The application from BICLP was approved by the EB.

*National Federation of Schools of Clinical Chemistry / Federación Nacional de Colegios Profesionales de la Química Clínica, A.C. (FENACQC) - Mexico*

The application for Affiliate Membership from FENACQC was circulated to the EB for review on September 14, 2022. There were some questions on their application but these were discussed and the application can be accepted as Affiliate a member. **The EB approved the application but PB will ask them to translate the last part of the document into English.**

#### **5.0 Regional Organisations**

Regional Federations updates will be provided at the GC.

5.2. Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)  
AMLR advised the EB that due to other commitments she will not be running for a second term (2024) as the COLABIOCLI Representative to the EB.

5.6. African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)  
*New Member Societies' Membership Application*  
The EB suggested that the official government letter in support of new member applications can be a document demonstrating that the organization is registered with the government, or other a similar document verifying the official status of the organization, as acceptable to the EB.

#### **7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)**

##### **7.2.26 EuroMedLab 2025**

*Call for Proposals/Evaluation of Bids Received*

Proposals were ranked by C-CC and by EFLM congress committees, and Brussels was selected. TO expressed concern that not all IFCC C-CC members voted, but it was noted that all members were invited to vote. Some concern was also expressed that the convention facility does not have air conditioning, but hopefully the time of the year will not require air conditioning. The hotels are also some distance from the conference centre and may cause a problem for delegates. A summary report supporting the decision to select Brussels will be released to provide transparency for the decision. The EB voted in favour of the selection of Brussels (7 in favour and 1 abstention (TO))

*Request for WorldLab 2026 bid*

The call for proposals for WL 2026 will go out soon with the new Congress Guidelines.

##### **7.3.4.26 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry - COLABIOCLI**

*Cartagena (Colombia) – April 2024*

KA expressed some concern that COLABIOCLI cannot hold IFCC meetings. Bolivia has been chosen to hold 2026 COLABIOCLI Congress but that is not an ideal location for the WorldLab due to less accessibility for world travel, thus this location may not be competitive for a WL bid.

- 7.20 Membership  
A call for nomination for one (or more) C-CC Members was issued with a deadline of October 21, 2022.
- 9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)**
- 9.2.4 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)  
*Membership*  
Andrea Ferreira Gonzalez (US) was approved as a member of C-CMBC (time in office 2022-2024).
- 9.2.07 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)  
*Membership*  
The EB approved the request for A. Don-Wauchope (CA) to be Co-Chair for C-EBLM until December 2023.
- 9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)  
*Update on Sponsorship*  
**PB will draft a letter to Abbott to request funding for the VLP for 2023.** Hopefully, Abbott will indicate a willingness to commit to a multi-year commitment.
- 12.00 IFCC Awards**  
*WL Rome 2023 and Dubai 2024*  
The proposal for the IFCC Awards' distribution between WL Rome 2023 and Dubai 2024 was agreed to, as below.
- 12.1.1. IFCC Howard Morris Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award - sponsored by *Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd. – Dubai*
- 12.1.2. IFCC Distinguished International Service Award (1981-1987), since 1990 IFCC Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service - sponsored by *Siemens - Rome*
- 12.1.3. IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education – sponsored by *Abbott Diagnostics - Rome*
- 12.1.4. IFCC Abbott Award for Significant Contributions to Molecular Diagnostics - sponsored by *Abbott Molecular - Dubai*
- 12.1.5. Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (ex-Sekisui) – *Rome* – call for sponsorship to be issued – **Paper 18**
- 12.1.6. IFCC Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine - sponsored by *NIST and CLSI - Rome*
- 12.1.7. IFCC Young Investigator Award – sponsored by *IFCC - Rome*
- 12.1.8. IFCC Distinguished Award for Contributions to Cardiovascular Diagnostics - sponsored by *Hytest - Rome*
- 12.1.9. Gérard Siest-Biologie Prospective Award - sponsored by *Biologie Prospective - Dubai*
- 12.1.10 IFCC Distinguished Women Scientist Award for Contribution to In-Vitro Diagnostics – sponsored by *Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd. - Dubai*
- The sponsors for the awards have been contacted and support is on-going.
- 13.03 Scholarships**  
**JP will reach out to his Roche colleague if a response to the request for scholarship sponsorship is not forthcoming.**
- 13.2. IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP)  
Call for Laboratories issued



## **16.0 Organisational Matters**

### **16.1 IFCC Office**

Secure cloud storage for the functional groups has been set up and is now being tested prior to roll out to the functional groups.

## **18.0 IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)**

*Status, board renewal, future goals*

**KA will discuss the status, board renewal and future goals of the FEN with Graham at the GC.**

## **19.0 Meetings**

### **19.1.24 Council meeting**

Munich Minutes to be circulated

### **19.6.00 General Conference**

NS survey prior to General Conference – Results

The response to the survey of Member representatives has been reviewed and KA will address the responses at the GC.

### **19.80 EB Meetings & International Relationships**

*Executive Board Meetings 2022 – in person*

*Proposal of venues for in-person EB Meetings:*

- GC - Brussels (BE) – Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, EB participation at functional units' closed meetings

*EB meetings in 2023:*

- Last week of February in Milan and with the Division review at the same time.
- Rome WorldLab
- Tunisia during the first week of May was suggested but that may not work due to the overlap with Rome, unless the EB does not meet in Rome.

*Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls:*

A virtual meeting will be schedule for the second week in December. Future meetings will be planned as necessary.

*IFCC and AACC potential collaborations re global initiatives*

Barbara Goldsmith is in charge of collaborations for AACC and wants to work more with IFCC. Perhaps through live webinars, working together on global lab quality, joint funding for PEP in countries where AACC is active, articles in each other's newsletters, and hopefully a joint meeting (perhaps in 2028).

## **16.0 Organisational Matters**

### **16.3. Nominations Committee IFCC EB 2024-2026**

It was noted that Tomris Ozben was elected as the IFCC President-Elect and congratulated by the EB.

The call for nominations for the EB Secretary and Treasurer has closed.

The call for nominations for the EB Corporate Members Representative is ongoing, September 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The call for nominations for the EB Regional Federations' Representatives is ongoing, September 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Chair of Nomination Committee has proposed some changes to the IFCC nomination process. Other changes were also suggested by the EB, including the maximum number of years allowed in EB positions, greater opportunity for individuals to serve on the EB, and eligibility issues including serving as a Federation President/Past President while serving as IFCC President. The matter will be discussed further at the next EB meeting.

16.7

Project Proposals

*Proposal for Conference format for Clinical Mass Spectrometry*

There was a request for a specialty conference on Applications for Clinical Mass Spectrometry, to be held in the fall of 2023. The EB endorsed the relevance of such a conference and the item has been referred to the SD for consideration.

16.40

Other business

*APFCB Regional Federation Representative at the EB*

The replacement representative for the APFCB will be addressed at the next meeting.

*The EFLM Regional Federation Representative at the EB*

The replacement representative for the EFLM will be determined after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 when TO becomes the IFCC President-elect.