



DEVELOPING QUALITY COMPETENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORIES

The mission of the IFCC Education and Management Division (EMD) is to provide IFCC members and the health care community with education to Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine directed at scientific, management and clinical issues.

One major IFCC initiative is aimed at informing emerging laboratory services of all aspects of quality, particularly of internal quality control, external quality assessment and working towards laboratory accreditation with the adoption of a quality system in line with the international standard ISO 15189.

For those emerging laboratory services, the answer of IFCC is the EMD Project:

**“Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories” (DQCML)
chaired by Dr. Mike Thomas (UK)**

This Project has the dual role of informing National Societies of the different opportunities offered by IFCC to develop quality competence, and coordinating educational requests in order to offer programmes tailored to individual requirements.

The DQCML carries out its activity through the following IFCC educational tools:

1. Visiting Lecture Programme

The IFCC “Visiting Lecture Programme” supports international cooperation in educational activities through funding of lectureships on professional, educational and managerial topics. National Societies can apply for a Visiting Lecturer on a specific subject, selected from the IFCC Speakers Bureau or request a different Lecturer. The programme funds the return economy travel of the Visiting Lecturer while hotel accommodation, meals and local transportation will be provided by the host Association.

2. Educational modules

The Educational modules are transferable to countries and regions requesting assistance in the following areas

- Basic analytical quality: Internal Quality Control (IQC) and External Quality Assessment (EQA)
- Laboratory quality assurance
- Quality management systems and ISO 15189
- Laboratory accreditation
- Laboratory management
- Management tools, including distance learning
- The interpretation of laboratory results

Programmes tailored to the individual requirements of the host Association will be prepared by a project team funded by IFCC to travel to the host country to present the Workshops and Symposia.

Moreover, to share the high scientific level, to learn the practicabilities of EQA scheme organisation or to introduce/improve scientific or management skills to the applicant's laboratory, visits to medical centers of excellence are also possible through the IFCC Professional Exchange Programme (PEP).

3. Mentoring Programme

The purpose of this programme is to use the expertise of experienced clinical chemists to assist young laboratory directors to improve their job performance and to facilitate their pursuit of a career track that would enable them to prepare for laboratory accreditation and become leaders in their field in their own countries. Mentors will serve as advisors in all professional aspects of laboratory operation, quality management and, where appropriate, career counseling.