



IFCC PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This leaflet is designed to assist developing countries in understanding the programmes that are available for Member associations and their individual members. It serves as an interpretation of the 'Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories' (DQCML) programme.

One of the goals of IFCC is to help improve the quality of Clinical Laboratory testing and management, with the ultimate goal of assisting laboratories to achieve accreditation.

IFCC recognizes that the extent and quality of laboratory testing in many developing countries lags behind what is accepted as needed in advanced countries. In many developed countries it is stated, although without scientific proof, that 50-70% of medical decisions are based on laboratory test results. This underlying importance of laboratory testing is a primary reason why IFCC, within the limits of its resources, is determined to assist the progressive evolution of laboratory testing in developing countries.

This leaflet provides a list of IFCC programmes available for developing countries which will make it easier for scientists to assess information in a way that will not cause them a financial burden. We hope that you will benefit from this list of programmes.

1. Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

This programme supports international cooperation in educational activities through funding of lectureships on professional, educational and managerial topics. Full Member or Affiliate Member associations are invited to apply for a Visiting Lecturer on a specific subject and/or request a lecturer who can give lectures at various institutions.

Speakers Bureau – a list of experts and recommended speakers as well as the topic of expertise can be accessed on the IFCC website.

Distance learning – a list of presentations on various topics are available on the IFCC website.

2. Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) and Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP)

The purpose of the programme is to provide participants with advanced scientific information or skills. Applications for a PSEP may come from any Full Member or Affiliate Member associations.

Examples of suitable PSEP projects include (but are not restricted to):

- Conduct of a collaborative research project between base and host laboratories;
- Use of a method or technique not available in the base laboratory in order to complete a research project;
- Learning a new method or technique in the host laboratory which will be introduced into the base laboratory after the PSEP is complete;
- Completion of a collaborative evidence-based scientific project such as the preparation of a systematic review.



The purpose of a PMEPE is to develop appropriate quality management skills in order to improve the performance and quality of service offered to patients by the base laboratory.

Applications for a PMEPE may only come from IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member associations that are in countries where quality management and/or laboratory accreditation are at an early stage of development.

Examples of PMEPE include:

- Acquiring skills to introduce effective internal quality control;
- Acquiring skills to introduce an external quality assurance scheme to a country;
- Acquiring skills to introduce quality management to the base laboratory;
- Preparation to enable the base laboratory to apply for laboratory accreditation in line with ISO Standard 15189.

The host laboratory for a PMEPE will normally be in the same IFCC Region as the applicant.

3. IFCC-Roche Travel Scholarships

IFCC-Roche travel scholarships are available to allow young scientists from developing countries to participate in relevant international scientific congresses and conferences. Applicants should be working in a developing country and should be less than 40 years of age on 1 January of the year in which the congress or conference occurs. Priority will be given to applicants who have submitted an abstract to the meeting.

Each year IFCC promotes the scheme and lists some IFCC meetings that do qualify, but this list is not all inclusive. It is a condition of the scheme that the congress or conference should take place in a country other than that in which the applicant works.

The IFCC-Roche travel scholarship will provide funding towards the cost of economy travel and accommodation. IFCC will seek to ensure that scholarship recipients receive free registration for the congress or conference that they attend.

4. Mentoring Programme

IFCC has recently developed a programme to make readily available to laboratory directors in developing countries the expertise and knowledge of a select group of laboratory directors from developed countries. A pool of Mentors, who are well respected experienced laboratory directors, has been created and will be expanded as the programme evolves. IFCC is seeking up-and-coming laboratory directors from developing countries, initially from Africa alone, who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to tap into the knowledge of these experts in a one-to-one relationship. IFCC envisages the programme as one of creating close professional relationships based on a shared goal of improving the quality of laboratory services. The programme will be conducted via the Internet, supplemented by the use of Skype where available to participants.

This programme will initially take place in Africa and depending on its success be instituted in developing countries in other continents. The thrust of the programme is for a laboratory director (or associate as he/she is described in the Mentoring Programme) in Africa to ask his/her mentor any question pertinent to laboratory management or operation or test result or career development. The mentor has the obligation of providing an appropriate answer, either from his/her personal knowledge or the input from an expert colleague. The programme director will try to match the interests of an associate with the primary interests of an appropriate mentor. IFCC expects the programme to be fully operational in 2014.

For any further information, please contact:

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