



SCLA The Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association

The Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association (SCLA) is a professional organisation for Specialists in Laboratory Medicine. The membership of the associations is open for all specialists in various Laboratory Medicine disciplines. The association was established in 1974 with about 20 members, mostly from Damascus.

Brief History

The Syrian Pharmacists Syndicate had set up a committee to establish a society for medical laboratories. A seven member committee headed by Dr. Souhail Homsy held its first meeting on 24 February 1973 and then called for the first council meeting on 16 May 1973 which was attended by 15 of practicing colleagues from Damascus and one representative of Homs city.

A draft bylaw was approved by the General Council on 6 June 1973 which was submitted to the Ministry of Health for ratification. The Ministry approved and ratified the bylaw on 18 September 1974; based on the ratified bylaw the Ministry issued the first Tariff of laboratory tests.

The association implemented its activities through an Executive Committee in Damascus with representation of the 14 Syrian Governorates. In 1986 a new structure was introduced in which each Governorate elects a local executive committee. The elected executive committees elect the country Executive Board which runs and administers the activities of the association including, but not limited, the organisation of Scientific Conferences & Congresses, Publishing Periodical Journals, Continuous Education Programmes, and Quality Assurance Programme. The Executive Board, also represents the association with local Authorities & Regional and International Organisations. The association has gained the trust and recognition of the Ministry of Health who consult the association in all issues related to laboratory medicine practice in Syria. However, practicing Laboratory Medicine in Syria is governed by several decrees and ministerial legislations which describe in details the required qualifications of lab directors and the minimum equipment required.

Mile Stones:

- 1974 Recognition of the Association by the Ministry of Health.
- 1974 The first Tariff of Laboratory Tests was issued by the Ministry of Health.
- 1986 The Association Structure was reformed.
- 1987 The first issue of the scientific Journal was published.
- 1988 SCLA organised the first Scientific Conference.
- 1991 Reform of the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology with an initiative of SCLA.
- 1991 A full programme for Quality Assurance was initiated.
- 2003 SCLA established its Website & Database.
- 2004 The Continuous Education Programme was initiated.
- 2005 Status & Rules were reformed.
- 2005 A new and modern Lecture Room & Offices were opened.
- 2007 Health Insurance Programme was introduced for all SCLA members.

Presidents of the Association

- Dr. Abdul Ghani Ma'a Al Bared 1987-1994
- Dr. Nizar Katranji 199-2002
- Dr. Ghassan Shannan 2003-2010
- Dr. Muhammad Tinawi 2010

Contributed by:

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First SCLA Conference May 1988



Secretariat Office of the First SCLA Conference May 1988



IFCC & AFCB Presidents with HE the Syrian Minister of Health, ArabMedLab 2006, Damascus, Syria

