

**IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)**  
**Report of Workshop held at Euromedlab Paris**  
**Monday 22 June 2015, 09.00-12.30**  
**Theme: Workforce Preparation- Invitation to Contribute**

**Introduction:**

The TF-YS Workshop was attended by 30 young scientists (YS) from around the world. The session was moderated by Graham Beastall (IFCC Past President).

The Workshop comprised three components:

- An overview of TF-YS given by Pradeep Kumar Dabla from India (Chair TF-YS)
- Short presentations given to a standard format by YS. The format was five slides to address the following questions:
  - Who am I and where am I from?
  - What is my current role (job/trainee etc)?
  - Why did I choose a laboratory medicine career?
  - What challenges am I facing?
  - What support would I like to receive from TF-YS?
- A structured discussion based on the short presentations given by the YS. The purpose of the discussion was to produce a framework to define how TF-YS may best support the future needs of YS.

**TF-YS Overview:**

In his presentation Pradeep outlined:

- The mission and objectives of TF-YS
- Current membership of TF-YS (core and extended groups)
- Recent TF-YS meetings and activities
- The TF-YS mentorship project (in final stage of development)
- The survey of YS backgrounds and interests (in final stage of development)
- Forthcoming educational sessions to conduct (two finalised)
- Information available on the TF-YS pages of the IFCC website ([www.ifcc.org](http://www.ifcc.org))
- Importantly, why we need to join IFCC-TFYS?

**Short Presentations:**

Short presentations were provided by:

- Chuck Noeson (US)
- Sedat Abusoglu (Turkey)
- Ryunosuke Ohkawa (Japan)
- Santiago Fares Taie (Argentina)
- Miljan Savkovic (Serbia)
- Gaelle Tachon (France)
- Lara Popoola (Nigeria)

The presenters came from different backgrounds and had roles that included service delivery, academic research, teaching and work in an in-vitro diagnostics company.

**Structured Discussion:**

The discussion centred on four main topics

- Communication

- Education and training
- Research
- The future of laboratory medicine

**Communication:**

Reaching YS across the world:

- TF-YS to develop material to encourage individual YS to connect with the TF. This material can be put on the TF-YS website and be sent to national societies for use at national conferences
- IFCC to encourage each national society to establish a national YS network with a 'chair' who Acts as liaison with TF-YS
- IFCC to ask national societies to share contact directories of YS to enable direct contact with YS through social networking
- IFCC to encourage Corporate Members (companies) to promote TF-YS to the YS it employs
- IFCC to consider improving the content and visibility of the TF-YS pages on the website
- IFCC to encourage national societies to nominate YS to serve on IFCC Committees and Working Groups

Survey of YS backgrounds and interests:

- Survey to be completed by TF core group
- Survey to be distributed directly to all YS on the TF contact list with encouragement to distribute to fellow YS
- Survey to be distributed by IFCC to national societies and Corporate Members

**Education and Training:**

Promotion of IFCC support programmes:

IFCC to promote via TF-YS communication networks:

- E-Academy and development of distance learning modules. YS input to be encouraged in determining distance learning support that is required
- Information on curriculum to be a specialist in laboratory medicine – scientific/clinical; professional practice; management/leadership
- Opportunities for scholarships to attend conferences
- Professional exchange programmes

Mentoring programme:

- TF-YS to be completed by core group
- Phase 1 to be piloted with a small number of mentors/mentees to enable programme to be refined in the light of experience
- The resource implications of Phase 2 to be given further consideration

**Research:**

- IFCC to develop an e-booklet to provide information and advice on: searching scientific literature; developing research proposals; applying of research funding; conducting research projects; writing scientific papers; preparing scientific presentations
- IFCC to promote to YS the Register of Experts willing to advise on specialist topics
- IFCC to increase opportunities for YS to present their research findings (e.g. electronic posters)

**The Future of Laboratory Medicine:**

- IFCC to work with TF-YS to highlight to YS:

- Drivers for change in laboratory medicine and the implications for laboratory medicine
- Opportunities to promote the value of laboratory medicine in healthcare
- Opportunities to address the 'divisions' that exist in laboratory medicine
- Examples of good practice from around the world