

EDUCATION & MANAGEMENT DIVISION

9.0 Minutes of the meeting of the EMD Executive Committee

Paris, 20th and 21st June 2015

Confirmed



Members	Position	Term	Time of Office
Leslie Lai - LL (MY)	Chair	1 st	2015 01 – 2017 12
Elizabeth FRANK – EF (IN)	Secretary / VLP	2 nd	2015 01 – 2017 12
Paolo FORTINA – PF (US)	Member	1 st	2013 01 – 2015 12
Ana Leticia MASELLI (GT)	Member	1 st	2014 01 – 2016 12
Christoph EBERT – CE (DE)	Corp. Rep.	1 st	2013 01 – 2015 12

Welcome and introductions

LL welcomed the Committee members and thanked everybody for making time to attend this meeting. He wished everyone a pleasant stay and hoped that we could get through the discussion efficiently as he had to attend the EB meeting .

1. Notification of other business and finalization of agenda

LL reviewed the agenda. He recommended that all divisions needed to be more proactive and submit a work plan annually for the next three years. Emphasis was to ensure that the committees were active and would plan purposefully for the next three years and be prompt in sending their reports

ACTION ITEM: SC will coordinate with the Committee and WG Chairs for periodic progress and annual reports

2. Review of minutes of EMD-EC meeting – Milan 2015

The minutes were approved.

3. Report from Executive Board

The report from the EB was discussed and the strategic plan pertaining to EMD was highlighted:

Consolidate the mentoring programme as a Special Project and promote its gradual expansion.

Increase the number of young scientists participating in the IFCC Committees and Working Groups.

Collaborate with CLMA to agree and promote a programme of leadership development and training.

In conjunction with others develop a route to laboratory accreditation for developing countries – DCQLM, and to apply the resource material at least once per year and evaluate its effectiveness

Establish a WG on the harmonisation of interpretive comments in EQA and publish a report with recommendations.

4. Review of Committees and Working Groups

▪ 9.02.04 Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)

Evi Lianidou	(GR)	Chair	1 st	2014 01-2016 12
Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez	(US)	Member	2 nd	2014 01-2016 12
Verena Haselmann	(DE)	Member	1 st	2014 01-2016 12
Atsushi Watanabe	(JP)	Member	1 st	2014 06-2016 12

The annual meeting of the C-CMBC was planned to be held in Paris and the agenda included discussion of the 2015 CMBC Course to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania in July 2015. It was impressive to see that all three Junior members (Karin Richter from Guatemala, Madelein Hoffman from South Africa and Vincent Alferos from the Philippines) are active and were scheduled to present on the current situation concerning the application of molecular diagnostics and external quality control as a follow-up of the course held in their countries on 23rd June 2015. A meeting with National Representatives from all countries interested in these courses was planned to be held in Paris.

Activity planned for 2015 was the CMBC Course in Vilnius, Lithuania, 12-17th July 2015. Dr. Vincent Thomas Alferos, Instructor-3, Faculty of Pharmacy, University San Thomas, BS Medical Technology, was selected as the new IFCC Junior member, based on his performance both in the written examination as well as in the practical workshop held in December 2014 in Manila.

Publications by the committee are as listed:

1. Publication in the IFCC eNews (January-February 2015) on the 2014 C-CMBC course held in Manila, the Philippines.
2. LabMedica International May 2015 on the 2014 C-CMBC course held in Manila.

The EC appreciated the efforts of the committee especially in recruiting and involving active young participants.

▪ **9.02.05 Analytical Quality (C-AQ)**

Egon Amann	(DE)	Chair	2 nd	2014 01-2016 12
David Grenache	(US)	Member	1 st	2013 08-2015 12
Graciela Velazquez	(PY)	Member	2 nd	2015 01-2017 12
Annette Thomas,	(UK)	Member	1 st	2014 01- 2016 12
Alexander Haliassos,	(GR)	Member	1 st	2014 01- 2016 12

The activities of the C-AQ Committee were mentioned in the report provided by the Chair and included:

1. The “Directory of EQA Services” for the web site had been completed. The EC mentioned that this Directory of EQA Services has to be updated at regular intervals and currently had omissions, including EQA programmes in Germany and Latin America.
2. To develop an improved version of the EQA setup check list in the CAQ section.
3. To finalize the “Resource table for EQA” for placing in the C-AQ section of the IFCC web site.
4. The committee will be working closely with C-DL to develop to develop e-learning presentations on “Principles on EQA” and “Principles of IQC”. Discussions with C-DL about recording the presentations will begin as soon as they are ready. These shall be placed on the C-AQ website and provided to C-DL for worldwide training & promotion.

The Executive Committee commended the C-AQ Committee for its good work and would like the C-AQ Committee to work out time-lines so that the various activities can be planned accordingly.

Potential future projects:

1. Consider to develop a “How to do” guidance paper on ISO 15189.
2. Consider developing a guidance paper on method validation.
3. “Basic eLearning tool on laboratory quality management” document useful for C-DL.

Publications

E. Amann: “Quality assurance in medical laboratories. Paths to global competence standards” in labor & more, in press (2015)

ACTION – Egon to provide a formal focused program for the next 6 months, including a time frame to complete the listed activity.

▪ **9.02.07 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)**

Chris Florkowski	(NZ)	Chair	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Hernan Fares Taie	(AR)	Member	2 nd	2014 01-2016 12
K. Rodriguez Capote	(CA)	Member	1 st	2014 06-2016 12
Annalise Zemlin	(ZA)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Julien Wils	(FR)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12

The activities proposed for 2015 are:

- To work with members of the committee for distance learning (C-DL) and the communications and publications division (CPD) to advance the establishment of an on-line learning resource in EBLM.
- Development of on-line teaching modules and an on-line examination (MCQ format), with the award of a (IFCC endorsed) certificate that can be awarded to those who complete the module.
- To look for opportunities to write (as a group) EBLM focused articles for scientific journals – regionally and internationally.
- Symposia to be planned for Warsaw, Poland 2016; South Africa 2017.
- The C-EBLM contributed a Symposium at the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Turkey
- To consider undertaking critiques of guidelines (e.g. endocrine).
- The committee has been working towards initiating a distance learning programme through the IFCC. The curriculum for this activity consists of lectures on various aspects of EBLM, modelled after the successful C-EBLM workshops. These sessions also include problem sets, with answers.
- To look for opportunities to write as a group EBLM-focused articles for scientific journals – regionally and internationally

The committee felt that the distance learning effort has so far not had sufficient resources and commitment to assist C-EBLM in this effort.

PUBLICATION

Than M, Aldous S, Lord SJ, Goodacre S, Frampton CM, Troughton R, George P, Florkowski CM, Ardagh M, Smyth D, Jardine DL, Peacock WF, Young J, Hamilton G, Deely JM, Cullen L, Richards AM. A 2-hour diagnostic protocol for possible chest pain in the emergency department: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA Intern Med. 2014 Jan; 174(1): 51-8.

The EC was appreciative of the commitment and efforts of the members of the committee.

ACTION ITEM

LL asked the Chair to speak to Janet Smith regarding allocation of funds for the e-Learning activity as a substantial amount of funds has been allocated for the e-Academy.

▪ 9.02.09 Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

Sedef Yenice	Chair	(TR)	1 st	2014 05-2016 12
Rajiv Erasmus	Member	(ZA)	2 nd	2014 01-2016 12
Matthias Orth	Member	(DE)	1 st	2015 03-2017 12
Modupe Kuti	Member	(NG)	1 st	2014 04-2016 12
Tjan Sian Hwa	Member	(ID)	1 st	2014 04-2016 12

Activities and proposed activities of the committee include:

- The committee organized a workshop on the “The Essentials of Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories” at the 4th Congress of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC), Victoria Falls, ZW on April 28-30, 2015. Workshop topics offered a solid mix of good laboratory practice and management requirements coupled with practical concepts that can be applied in real-world clinical laboratory settings. The faculty consisted of senior laboratory professionals from Australia and South Africa (V. Steenkamp, R Bais, T Pillay and RT Erasmus). This workshop was partially funded by the IFCC-Abbott VLP fund (Renze Bais was IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer).
- To produce support documents for “Developing Quality Systems in the Clinical Laboratory” in collaboration with C-AQ by the end of 2016.
- To update “Terms of Reference” of C-CLM on website.
- To complete the laboratory questionnaire focusing on the assessment of quality management system in medical and clinical laboratories.
- To develop “Training Modules” on the C-CLM section of IFCC website.
- In response to the request of Prof. Edgard Delvin, C-PR Chair on February 16, 2015, CCLM has provided some Power Point presentations to support the IFCC PR activities and for distance learning and web purposes. The power point presentations provided were as follows:

CCLM Member	Title of Presentation
Rajiv T Erasmus	Method Validation - Practical POCT Method Validation Role of Laboratory in Implementing POC in Africa Section of POCT Devices
Modupe Kuti	Overview of Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation
Tjan Sian Hwa	Introduction of Sigma Metric in Clinical Laboratory

- Professor Dr. Ganna Lunyova, President of the Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU) and her group have been invited to the C-CLM meeting on June 21st, 2015 to discuss the management requirements for achieving harmonisation in laboratory testing at all phases (pre-pre-analytical, pre-analytical, analytical, post-analytical and post-post-analytical).
- C-CLM committee member, Dr Matthias Orth will deliver a lecture in the session on "Current Advances on Clinical Laboratory Management" at the 27th National Biochemistry Congress of Turkish Biochemical Society on 3 to 6 November 2015, Belek, Antalya, Turkey. The title of his lecture is "Benchmarks: value versus cost of laboratory testing".

The EC was appreciative of all the efforts and dedication of the Chair and committee members.

ACTION ITEM: EF will coordinate with the committee to help them have a focused approach.

▪ **9.02.10 Distance Learning (C-DL)**

Janet Smith	(UK)	Chair	2 nd	2015 01-2017 12
Ronda Greaves	(AU)	Member	2 nd	2015 01-2017 12
Damien Gruson	(BE)	Member	2 nd	2015 01-2017 12
Endang Hoyaranda	(ID)	Member	2 nd	2015 01-2017 12
Loralie Langman	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12

On-going activities of the Committee:

- Approval of material for the website is ongoing as it becomes available.
- The curriculum development
- The e-Academy development is going well and the first phase is scheduled to be launched during the EuroMedLab Congress
- The mass spectrometry module is being prepared by Dr Ronda Greaves and will be presented in the joint C-DL C-leL symposium on 23 June 2015.
- Liaison with IFCC Office continues over obtaining permissions from authors.

- The Chair, JS was pleased to know of the generous sponsorship from Siemens for funding the preparation of webinars and will be discussing the way forward with the C-leL in Paris

The EB commended the efforts of this committee.

▪ **9.03.08 Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS)**

Laura Sciacovelli	(IT)	Chair	1 st	2014 01-2016 12
Mario Plebani	(IT)	Past Chair		

The activity of this working group includes:

- Continuous management of an External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP) concerning the following Quality Indicators (QIs) has been established
45 QIs of Key Processes: 28 to monitor the pre-analytical phase; 6 on the intra-analytical phase; 11 on the post-analytical phase. 5 QIs of Support Processes and 3 of Outcome Measures

The EQAP includes:

- registration of laboratories that wish to participate in the program;
- collection of QI results through a dedicated website;
- elaboration of QI results;
- evaluation of results using the Sigma metric;
- preparation of a periodic report for each participant;
- distribution of the report to all participants through the dedicated website.

The participation is free, it does not require fees, and is open to all laboratories all over the world. Moreover, the confidentiality of data is assured.

- Analysis of Quality Indicators (QIs) data collected in EQAP in order to define a Model, consensually accepted, to be used in laboratories all over the world. The definition of the QIs Model includes the use of the same quality indicators, a uniform method of data collection and a centralized elaboration.
- Identification of Quality Specifications (goals to be achieved) for each Quality Indicator to make easier the interpretation of QIs results and identify the action priorities.
- Encouragement of laboratories all over the world to enrol in the project, To identify national leaders to coordinate the participation of laboratories in their countries and to contribute to the results management as well as the information provided in the reports.
- Arrangement of a Consensus Conference to release a Model of Quality Indicators fully accepted by laboratories, if possible within the first quarter of 2016.

The committee has participated in the following symposia:

- M. Plebani. Preanalytical Quality Indicators. 3rd FLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase. Porto 20-21 March 2015.
- M. Plebani. Post-analytical phase quality management – new achievements. 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region. Belgrade, May 14-15, 2015
- M. Plebani. EuroMedLab 2015. Quality Indicators as a tool to reduce the risk of diagnostic errors. Paris 21-25 June 2015.

- L. Sciacovelli. Armonizzazione degli indicatori della fase pre-analitica. Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Medicina di laboratorio (SIBioC). Firenze, 26-28 Ottobre 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Plebani M, Sciacovelli L, Aita A, Pelloso M, Chiozza ML. Performance criteria and quality indicators for the pre-analytical phase. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2015 May 1; 53 (6): 943-8.

The EC commended the good work of this working group.

▪ 9.03.09 Cancer Genomics (WG-CG)

Jason Park	(US)	Chair	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Paolo Fortina	(US)	Co-Chair	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Eric Londin	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Peter Clark	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Stephen Master	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Allen Chan	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Michael Neumaier	(DE)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Evi Lianidou	(GR)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Parviz Ahmad-Nehad	(DE)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Tae Hyun Hwang	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12
Deborah Payne	(US)	Member	1 st	2015 01-2017 12

The membership of the working group has been established. The participants' names and affiliations are posted on the IFCC website.

The first meeting of the working group is set for Sunday, June 21 in Paris, France and will be in conjunction with EuroMedLab. The Preliminary Agenda will define the Scope of Working Group. The group plans to produce documents covering aspects of cancer genomics to be standardized for clinical laboratories.

The EMD has submitted to the Chair of the Congress and Conferences Committee, Prof James, Wesenberg, a proposal for symposium on clinical cancer genomics for the APFCB Congress in Taipei in November 2016. The speakers and titles of the talks are as follows:

- Paolo Fortina, Emerging Technologies for Clinical Cancer Genomics
- Massimo Cristofanilli, Therapeutic Opportunities in Genome-based Diagnosis and Management of Solid Tumors
- Jason Park, Standards for Cancer Genomic Clinical Laboratories

PUBLICATION

Article in IFCC eNews on Cancer Genomics, March-April 2015, written by Jason Parks and Paolo Fortina.

▪ **9.03.10 Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments External Quality Assurance (WG-ICQA)**

Sam Vasikaran	(AU)	Chair	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Mario Plebani	(IT)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Eric Kilpatrick	(AU)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Anand Dinghe	(US)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Tony Badrick	(AU)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Ken Sikaris	(AU)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Jacqueline Osypiw	(UK)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12
Jane French	(UK)	Member	1 st 2015 01-2017 12

The aim of this group is to bring together representatives of current and potential organisers of national EQA schemes for Interpretive Comments and experts in the area.

Papers of interest and relevance to the aims of the WG have been circulated. An agenda will be developed for the first meeting of the WG to be held in Paris.

The following goals will be targeted:

- Develop harmonised goals for EQA of IC.
- Devise standard methods of assessment, nomenclature and marking scales for EQA of IC.
- Establish minimum standards of performance for participants.

PUBLICATIONS

An article has been written by the Chair and published in the June issue of the IFCC eNews.

▪ **9.04.01 IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP)**

Elizabeth Frank (IN) Chair

Analysis and discussion on the already approved VLPs was done by the committee. Concern was expressed regarding funding from Abbott as no funding had been received for 2015. The committee discussed the effectiveness of the program and whether a workshop should be considered at the conferences rather than a few lectures. The VLP was acknowledged as the most popular activity of the IFCC.

ACTION ITEM: LL to liaise with MF regarding funding of the VLP program.

▪ **9.04.02 Working Group on Flow Cytometry (WG-FC)**

Ulrich Sack

(DE) Chair

2nd

2014 01-2016 12

- The annual flow cytometry workshop will take place from October 27 to 29 in Athens (GR). The established principle will be continued: intense interaction between participants and trainers; 3 topics a day with short introduction and extensive practical exercises; 3 days' duration; and emerging and relevant scientific topics with clinical impact for daily practice.
- As planned, international flow cytometry courses are being planned outside Europe. Contacts with colleagues from Rio de Janeiro (BR), and Sao Paulo (BR), and Cordoba (ARG) ended up with the option of a first Latin American Course in Argentina in September 2015 or in Brazil in 2016.
- An additional workshop was offered under IFCC auspices in Krems, Austria, 7 to 8 May 2015, "Extracellular Vesicles in Inflammation" was the topic of the meeting. Besides cutting edge presentations covering this topic, practical exercises were offered to the attendees.
- Course participants get personal information folders with all presentations and additional material. This information cannot be made public due to copyright.
- The programmes of flow cytometry courses are available online via <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/working-groups-special-projects/course-on-flowcytometrywg-cf>

▪ **9.04.03 Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)**

Michael Thomas

(UK) Chair

Extended term

2015 01-2016 12

- The committee intends to engage and collaborate with Chairs of EMD Committees and the VLP by seeking their support in the delivery of Quality Systems initiatives and utilising when appropriate their expertise and resource in the delivery of programmes under the DQCML Project.
- Provided appropriate support to the President of the Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Bioquímica, Ecuador for the delivery of a 2-day Quality Control workshop in February 2015.
- A second workshop was held in Riobamba, Ecuador on 28th and 29th February 2015. The course was presented in Spanish by Ana Lucia Aguirre-Mejia, from Quality Consulting Co. and organised under the auspices of SEBIOCLI by the former President, Cecilia Paula.
- MT has tried to contact the President of the Association of Clinical Biochemistry of Sri Lanka without success. The aim is to identify the needs of laboratories in Sri Lanka for

accreditation (ISO 15189) and to support the organisation through the delivery of a 2-day accreditation workshop in 2015.

- MT will contact the President of the Ukrainian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics to identify the needs of laboratories in Ukraine and formulate a program plan for delivery in 2016.
- Dr Renze Bais has proposed for IFCC to help Zambia with EQAP. The proposal is for IFCC to purchase enough EQA material for 12 months for 20 laboratories so the EQAP programme previously supported by Randox for 2 years, but ceased in March 2015, can continue and give the Biomedical Society of Zambia (BSZ) enough time to work further with the MOH to fully take over the programme.

Suitable material is available from the Australian QAP for AUD \$150 per set of 12 samples.

The requested budget is:

EQA Samples	AUD \$ 3000
Shipping (estimated)	AUD \$ 400
Total Budget	AUD \$ 3400

Samples would be distributed by BSZ to selected laboratories and assayed on a monthly basis for 12 months.

Funding for this project was approved from the DQCML budget for one year only.

ACTION ITEM: EF will contact the Sri Lankan society to see if a workshop can be planned in the later half of 2015 or early 2016

▪ 9.04.04 IFCC Mentoring Programme

Donald Young (US) Consultant 1st 2015 01-2017 12

The programme was designed to provide guidance from experienced lab directors in developed countries (mentors) to laboratory directors in emerging countries (associates). The programme provides a designated mentor to up to three associates. The programme is conducted exclusively by e-mail except where both parties have Skype, which is used as an adjunct. To date the programme has 11 active Mentors and 15 Associates. All the latter are in Sub-Saharan Africa except for one individual in Barbados who was trained in Africa. A recent Survey Monkey survey of both mentors and associates indicated that the programme appears to be working well, as judged by comments made by participants.

PUBLICATION

An article was written by the Chair and published in the June issue of the IFCC eNews describing the programme and inviting more individuals to identify themselves as either potential mentors or associates.

ACTION ITEM: Donald Young to involve Mentors in Latin America.

6. EMD strategic plan

A three-year strategic plan was finalised and approved.

7. Corresponding members

None.

8. EMD contributions to IFCC News

IFCC eNews, January-February 2015, pages 6-11

C-CMBC: Beginner's Course in Molecular Diagnostics - Manila, Philippines - A short overview
Evi Lianidou

IFCC eNews, March-April 2015, pages 7-8

IFCC Working Group on Cancer Genomics
Jason Y. Park and Paolo Fortina

LabMedica International, May 2015, page 44

C-CMBC: Beginner's Course in Molecular Diagnostics - Manila, Philippines - A short overview
Evi Lianidou

IFCC eNews, May-June 2015, pages 7-8

IFCC Working Group for the Harmonisation in the operation of Interpretive Comments external
Quality

Assessment schemes (WG-ICQA)
Samuel Vasikaran

IFCC eNews, May-June 2015, pages 10-11

IFCC Mentoring Programme
Donald Young

The EC felt it was important for IFCC-EMD activities to be published in the IFCC eNews.

ACTION ITEM: LL will continue to solicit articles from Chairs of Committees, Working Groups and Special Projects. VLP reports may also be published in the IFCC eNews.

9. EMD sessions at IFCC congresses

- The Chair of C-CLM would be invited to submit a symposium proposal for ArabMedLab, December 2015.
- The proposal submitted by the Chair of C-CMBC will be submitted for the EuroMedLab Congress in Athens 2017: Title: "The Liquid Biopsy approach: Following the tumor in peripheral blood".

- The Cancer Genomics Working Group will put forward a proposal for the IFCC WorldLab in Durban 2017.

10. Links with other Divisions

EF will be available to act as the EMD-liaison to the Task Force on CKD

The Task Force on Implementation of HbA1c Standardisation has completed its task and has been wound up. The IFCC EB has proposed the establishment of a new Committee on Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes chaired by Garry John which will be placed under the EMD.

11. Any other business

None

12. Date and location of future meetings

At the General Conference in Madrid, 18th March 2016.