

IFCC General Conference 2018
**Laboratory medicine:
Preparing for the 2020's**

10th – 11th November 2018
Hotel Novotel Budapest City, Hungary

IFCC
International Federation
of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine

Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide

**REPORT FROM AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL
CHEMISTRY (AFCC)
FOR 2018**

**PROFESSOR ADEKUNLE B OKESINA
REPRESENTATIVE OF AFCC ON THE IFCC
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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INTRODUCTION

- We are still faced with membership challenge in Africa
- out of about 54 countries IFCC is present in less than 15 countries.
- Many of these countries with IFCC presence have very low level of activities. What we are doing currently is to maintain regular communication between the countries that are active while struggling to bring more countries on board. Details of some of these activities will follow.



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INTRODUCTION CONT.

AFCC biennial conference is slated to hold in Morocco from 26th to 28th September 2019.

This will further strengthen our collaboration with Arab Federation.

We plan that during this meeting the executive boards of both the AFCC and AFBC would hold a joint meeting.

Furthermore, there is ongoing discussion for active participation of American Association, European Federation and IFCC at this meeting.



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INTRODUCTION CONT.



Scientific meetings and workshops were successfully organized and held in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia and Nigeria with active participation of AFCC in them.

The meetings attracted good number of young scientists who benefited immensely from them and some of them received sponsorship from AFCC.

We are grateful for the support we received from IFCC which gave us some financial backing. We are also grateful for the understanding and cooperation we enjoy from other Federations of IFCC.



MAJOR CHALLENGES



These include:

- membership drive,
- funding,
- poor or inadequate laboratory services and training
- lack of strategic plan.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At present the membership comprises of 15 out of 54 countries in Africa and all the countries in Africa need support of IFCC .

We are therefore struggling hard to bring more countries on board.

We hope that by supporting establishment of national quality control similar to what was done in Zambia will be a step in the right direction.



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FUNDING

Since the current executive came on board the funding of AFCC has improved through the commendable effort of the President, Professor Rajiv Erasmus who was able to secure grants from some companies which has helped to improve the activities of the federation.

Before this time our only source of funding was IFCC. The executive board plan to use three strategies to further raise fund in the coming year: these include trainings in molecular diagnostics, laboratory statistics and scientific writings all of these will require assistance of IFCC. We have challenged members to bring forward ideas to improve the fund raising drives of the AFCC.



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STRATEGIC PLAN

We have not been able to put in place strategic plan due to logistic problems. However, at the beginning of this year we put up ten bullet points action plan . I am happy to report that 80% of the content of action plan for the year had been realised.



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AFCC TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership of the AFCC task force has not changed and we are still thinking of ways to make them more functional

- a. **Strategic Planning Development:** RT Erasmus, H Lumano, MA Charles Davies, HTM Matarira.
- b. **Shaping the future of Lab Medicine:** AB Okesina, HTM Matarira, All AFCC Council members
- c. **Fund Raising:** A Amayo, V Steenkamp, AB Okesina, RT Erasmus HTM Matarira
- d. **Educational Management Division:** RT Erasmus, H Lumano, MA Charles Davies, HTM Matarira
- e. **Scientific Division:** V Steenkamp, AB Okesina, RT Erasmus, HTM Matarira.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

We have improved in this regard with details as follows:

- AFCC organized workshop on Quality and Laboratory Management in collaboration with Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association (EMLA) in Bahar Dar on 15th March, 2018.

Prof Erasmus, Prof A Zemlin (Chair of BLM IFCC Chair) participated in the workshop. About 60 young laboratory scientists and technologists from various universities and hospitals attended the workshop. An excellent oral feedback was received from participants



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- Also **on the 16th of March** at Ethiopia, Prof Howard Morris, Prof Zemlin and Prof Erasmus gave talks at the Annual Congress organized by (Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association) EMLA



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

In **April 13th to 17th** this year Professor Okesina was invited as a speaker at the ESLM Conference in Cairo Egypt. One of the papers delivered was on "impact of IFCC in Africa".

Similarly, **In February 2018**, Professor Erasmus on invitation attended a quality control workshop in Alexandria, Egypt (Prof Egon participated in similar workshop last year). These interactions had stimulated interest of these associations in IFCC and they have applied for affiliate membership of IFCC.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

A quality and leadership workshop was arranged by AFCC **on 30th June 2018** in Nairobi, Kenya.

Many members of the Kenyan Association of Clinical Chemists and academic staff from : University of Nairobi, Maseno University and Aga Khan University benefited from the workshop.

During the workshop potential areas of research specifically directed at Clinical Audits were identified.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- Prof Zemlin, also participated in this workshop. The Kenya workshop which was initially planned for 40 participants, including speakers
- eventually accommodated 60 participants and it was also a huge success in view of feedback from participants.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- From **July 2nd to 5th 2018**, AFCC members including young scientist participated in the Mediterranean Conference.
- A similar workshop to that of Kenya was also organized in Lusaka, Zambia on **28th of July 2018**, although originally planned for about 50 laboratory scientists more than 120 participants attended. The large turnout was because the Ministry of Health of Zambia, facilitated and supported participants across the country.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION



- Professors Erasmus, Zemlin and Okesina spoke at this Zambian workshop.
- Also, six local senior scientists served as speakers from Zambia at the workshop. The workshop was jointly organized between the AFCC and Zambian Association of Clinical Biochemistry. As a result of the successful outcome of this conference, the ZACB has requested for a similar workshop to be hosted early in 2019.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION



In October **15th to 20th 2018** Association of Clinical Chemistry of Nigeria (ACCN) successfully held their biennial Conference with full support and participation of AFCC at Awka in Anambra State (South Eastern Nigeria). This meeting provided the opportunity for AFCC to hold face to face executive board meeting on the 18th of October 2018.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Through efforts of the President Professor Erasmus, two workshop were mounted at the ACCN conference and these were supported by Roche and BD.

There was preconference workshop on Point Of Care Testing and post conference workshop on Leadership and Quality Management.

AFCC sponsored many international and local speakers to this conference which was attended by participants from various parts of Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. Also a good number of young scientists were also sponsored



MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Because of short notice the IFCC president was not able to attend the Nigeria conference, however he was ably represented by Professor Graham Beastall

On behalf of ACCN and AFCC I want to express our gratitude to Prof Graham Beastall (past President of IFCC) who sent a key note address through a Webinar. The participants benefited a lot from his thought provoking lecture on traceability in Laboratory Medicine.



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MANAGEMENT COURSES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

- Dr Sam Vasikaram has put in place plans to initiate interpretative Laboratory reports.
- The plan is to collaborate with ASLM in this project in order to cover a wide range within Africa, since currently IFCC has not spread widely in Africa unlike ASLM.
- This will increase awareness of benefit that countries can derive from membership of IFCC.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME

On the platform of AFCC, countries in Africa have been actively involved in the young scientists programme and some were selected for sponsorship and presentation of scientific papers at meetings.

AFCC is grateful to IFCC and other Federations especially the European Federation in this regard, for assisting the growth of our young scientists.

MOU BETWEEN IFCC AND ASLM

MOU was signed between IFCC, AFCC and ASLM on **17th March, 2018**, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Prof Howard Morris, IFCC president and Prof Rajiv Erasmus, AFCC president were both present. The meeting was facilitated and arranged by AFCC President, Prof R Erasmus. This meeting featured in the April issue of the IFCC News Bulletin.



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EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

On behalf of ACCN as part of follow up on the discussions on quality at 2016 conference in Nigeria by IFCC, the national representative Dr Soriyan wrote application to Birmingham for support to run EQA samples in 4 laboratories in Nigeria.

I am happy to report that the 4 laboratories have so far performed reasonably well with regard to monthly uploading of results of the analytes.

The process is still ongoing and the results are promising. We hope to request for greater support to spread across countries in West Africa and this will help us to activate activities in such countries.



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•THAN YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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The banner features a blue header bar with a white globe icon on the left and a blue trapezoidal shape on the right. The background is light gray with a faint, large globe graphic. At the bottom, there is a small IFCC logo on the left, the text "Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide" in the center, and a larger IFCC logo on the right.

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