

Chapter 13

Task Forces and Special Projects

13.1 Task Forces

13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
N. Fink	Chair	AR	2 nd	2021 01 - 2023 12
R. Davey	Member	AU	2 nd	2021 07 - 2023 12
J. Wiencek	Member	US	1 st	2019 05 - 2021 12
SK Datta	Member	IN	1 st	2020 08 - 2022 12
J. Verona	Member	AR	1 st	2020 08 - 2022 12
D. Bruns	Consultant	US		
J. Jonsson	Consultant	IS		

Aims:

- To increase awareness among Laboratory Medicine Professionals of ethical issues
- To encourage the practice of Laboratory Medicine to the highest ethical standards
- To develop guidance documents for member societies on ethics related issues
- To provide a voice for Laboratory Medicine on ethical issues

Objectives:

- Recognising that IFCC is formed by representatives from Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in more than 90 countries plus more than 40 corporate members, it is unlikely that the TF can create documents that would be acceptable to all national societies. For that reason, the TF should instead focus on guidance documents to assist member societies to create their own unique policies and statements
- A secondary objective is to ensure that each paper is published in professional journal(s) and that it is also made available to the general public

Background:

During the term 1997-1999, the EB of the IFCC accepted the principle of establishing an Ethics Committee. In various parts of the world, individual professional organizations have raised awareness of ethics-related issues among their members and have produced documents addressing some of the key issues. Other organisations have not, and would like guidance on how to create such documents. In general, the Laboratory Medicine community has not provided organised discussion in which the members can actively participate. There has been even less effort at the international level to create a collective voice for ethical issues in Laboratory Medicine. Laboratory Medicine organisations have a responsibility to advance the interest of their members but the IFCC strategic vision also clearly states that the ultimate goal is to benefit the health and well-being of the patients and communities we serve. This test of our professional responsibility demands that we do not simply perform tests and use technology uncritically. We cannot be isolated from the impact of our work on society.

Task Force Chair Address:

Chair

Dr. Nilda FINK

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13.1.6 IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
S. Fares Taie	Chair	AR	1 st	2020 01 - 2022 12
G. Sancesario	Co-Chair	IT	1 st	2020 01 - 2022 12
J. El-Khoury	Member	US	1 st	2019 01 - 2021 12
A. Rampul	Member	ZA	1 st	2019 01 - 2021 12
I.W. Masfufa	Member	ID	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
C. Imperiali	Member	ES	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
P. Kumar Dabla	Consultant	IN		
B. Das	SD Liaison	IN		

Aim

The aim of TF-YS is to ensure that young scientists make a significant and growing contribution to the activities of IFCC and to the promotion of laboratory medicine at the centre of healthcare.

Objectives

- To identify young scientists amongst IFCC Full and Corporate Members
- To use modern information technology to establish formal and informal networks to facilitate the communication between young scientists who are involved in laboratory medicine.
- To link with national society young scientist initiatives.
- To encourage young scientists to share experience of laboratory medicine and other healthcare practice around the world
- To disseminate and promote innovation and high quality scientific and clinical practice standards
- To facilitate opportunities for young scientists to train in modern, state of the art laboratory practice
- To enable young scientists to participate in scientific, clinical and educational meetings and other learning sessions
- To encourage young scientists to participate in national and international programmes to promote the essential contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare
- To make young scientists aware of the existence and role of IFCC and to encourage their participation in IFCC activities
- To assure the future of IFCC through the identification of young scientists who may develop into future experts capable of leading IFCC Divisions, Committees and Working Groups and becoming IFCC Officers

Delivery

- For the purposes of definition, a young scientist is a medical or science graduate working or training in laboratory medicine. He/she will normally be aged less than 40y at the time of appointment to work with TF-YS. The term of office of any young scientist involved with TF-YS is three years with renewal for a maximum of one further three-year term of office.
- TF-YS will comprise a Chair and, normally, a maximum of four other core members. Core membership of TF-YS will ensure geographical representation and linkage to national societies that have experience of working with young scientists. TF-YS will also have an extensive number of corresponding members. All IFCC Full Members and Corporate Members will be invited to nominate young scientists to serve as core or corresponding members of TF-YS. Membership of TF-YS will be confirmed by the

IFCC Executive Board on the recommendation of the TF-YS Chair.

- TF-YS will communicate mainly through modern electronic and social networking media. Communication will include all core and corresponding members of TF-YS and may develop into other networks as agreed by TF-YS.
- TF-YS may organise regular workshops for young scientists within the framework of existing IFCC international or regional meetings. With the permission from the organisers TF-YS may also hold occasional workshops within national society or specialist society meetings. No expenses will be paid by IFCC for attendance at these workshops.
- TF-YS will be able to communicate with and request support from other IFCC functional units.

Accountability

The TF-YS will report directly to the IFCC Executive Board. A nominated member of the Executive Board will act as a liaison person for TF-YS. The TF-YS will prepare an update report for each meeting of the Executive Board and may contact the Board, through the designated liaison person, at other times. Any additional finance raised by TF-YS will be accounted for through normal IFCC accounting procedures and will be subject to financial audit.

Task Force Co-Chairs Addresses:

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13.1.12 Task Force on History (TF-H)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
M.M. Müller	Chair	AU	1 st	2019 06 - 2021 12
B. Gouget	Co-Chair	FR	1 st	2019 06 - 2021 12

The IFCC Executive Board appointed Prof. Mathias M. Müller and Dr. Bernard Gouget, as co-chairs of the History TF, to prepare the next IFCC Milestones publication (2003-2020) to be available in Seoul and to write, after the 50th anniversary book (1952-2002), the new Anniversary Book (2002-2022) to celebrate the 70th IFCC anniversary.

Task Force Co-Chairs Addresses:

Prof. Mathias M. Müller

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Dr. Bernard Gouget

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13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
T. Ravalico	Chair/Abbott	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Ortisi	Secretary/Siemens	IT	1 st	2021 04 - 2023 12
J.S. Blanchet	Member/Beckman Coulter	FR	1 st	2019 04 - 2021 12
V. Chen	Member/Snibe	CN	1 st	2021 04 - 2023 12
B. Meyer	Member/Becton Dickinson	UK	1 st	2021 04 - 2023 12
J. Trafi Prats	Member/Ortho Clinical Diagnostics	ES	1 st	2019 04 - 2021 12
J. Passarelli	EB Corp. Rep. /Roche	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12

Aim

The aim of IFCC TF-CM is to enable Corporate Members to make significant and growing contributions to the activities of IFCC, and to elevate key topics and priorities for the betterment of industry collaborations, laboratory medicine and health care.

Objectives

- To assist IFCC in promotion of science, innovation, and advancement of the essential contribution of laboratory medicine to health care
- To facilitate discussion among Corporate Members and identify common topics of interest and/or concern
- To improve the engagement of Corporate Members with the IFCC
- To serve as the “voice of industry” and be more accessible to all IFCC teams and leadership, enabling a more diverse understanding and appreciation of needs among corporate members and the IFCC
- To increase awareness with other Corporate Members of IFCC TF-CM and to encourage their participation in IFCC activities

Accountability

The TF-CM will report directly to the IFCC Executive Board. The Corporate Representative of the Executive Board will be a liaison to the EB while serving as a member of TF-CM. The TF-CM will prepare reports to the Executive Board on meeting outcomes.

Background

The IFCC Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM) was approved by the IFCC Executive Board and established in 2019 in order to strengthen the collaboration between IFCC and its Corporate Members. Similar to other task forces, the TF-CM reports directly to the IFCC Executive Board. The TF-CM consists of the chair and 6 other members, including the secretary, the Corporate Representative at the IFCC Executive Board, and 3 other members. Members are elected by the IFCC EB from nominations from the corporate representatives. The corporate representatives from each of the other divisions are also invited and encouraged to attend the TF-CM meetings. Memberships on the TF-CM are for 3 years with the possibility of extension for an additional 3 years.

Areas of Focus

- The voice of corporate members within IFCC
- High impact and frequency of conferences/congresses
- Growth and sustainability of corporate members
- Effective, timely and enhanced communications among IFCC, Conference Organizing Secretariat, and Corporate Members

- Industry needs for IFCC involvement with regulators and clinical societies

Task Force Chair Address:

Tricia Ravalico

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13.1.16 IFCC Task Force on COVID-19

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
G. Lippi	Chair	IT	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
A.R. Horvath	Member	AU	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
D. Koch	Member	US	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
N. Mancini	Member	IT	1 st	2020 04 - 2022 12
S. Sethi	Member	SG	1 st	2020 03 - 2022 12
C.B. Wang	Member	CN	1 st	2020 04 - 2022 12
K.Y. Yuen	Member	HK	1 st	2020 04 - 2022 12

The leading objectives of this TF encompass the provision of regular updates on epidemiology, pathogenesis and laboratory diagnostics of COVID-19, the development of practical recommendations for harmonising the use of diagnostic tests for COVID-19 and biosafety measures for managing the specimens, as well as the organisation of international studies to improve the knowledge on pathogenesis, diagnostics and therapeutic management of COVID-19.

Terms of reference

- Establish and maintain an IFCC e-learning platform on COVID-19 (“IFCC Information Guide on COVID-19”), which provides regular updates on epidemiology, pathogenesis and laboratory testing of COVID-19
- Provide tentative guidance and consensus documents for harmonising the use of diagnostic and serological tests for COVID-19
- Provide tentative guidance for harmonising biosafety measures during management of COVID-19 specimens by clinical laboratories
- Address clinical, technical and organisational perspectives of laboratory-based and POC testing in COVID-19 patients and provide guidelines/recommendation when feasible
- Integrate data on COVID-19 laboratory abnormalities from all over the world, and promoting or coordinating new studies
- Evaluate opportunities, risks and safety of using non-conventional biological materials for diagnosing COVID-19
- Establish and maintain efficient distance learning channels, with organisation of webinars and providence of other informative material
- Maintain a repository of scientific articles on laboratory testing for diagnosing, prognosticating and monitoring COVID-19.

Task Force Chair Address:

Prof. Giuseppe Lippi

Full Professor of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Verona
Director, Service of Laboratory Medicine, University Hospital of Verona
Secretary of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

Executive Editor-in-Chief, Annals of Translational Medicine
Editor in Chief, Journal of Laboratory and Precision Medicine
Associate Editor, Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
Associate Editor, Seminars in Thrombosis and Hemostasis
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13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS)

Joint Task Force of IFCC and International Society of Newborn Screening (ISNS)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
V. Leung-Pineda	Co-Chair	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
J. Bonham	Co-Chair/ISNS	UK	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
M.A. Ascurra de Duarte	Member	PY	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
F. Boemer	Member	BE	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
U. Ceglarek	Member	DE	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Habib Khan	Member	PK	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
M. Kase	Member	FI	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
K. Valdyanathan	Member	IN	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
D. Webster	Member/ISNS	AU	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
E. Lebretonchel	Member/Young Scientist	FR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
<i>To be nominated</i>	Member			

Scope & Mandate

- Select countries for IFCC's NBS Pilot Project via a call for participation to IFCC member societies using pre-defined selection criteria. A formal call for participation by developing countries will be issued soon by the IFCC office.
- Identify potential participating centres (e.g. healthcare facilities and laboratories) and stakeholders (e.g. government ministries and/or agencies) within each Partner Country.
- Engage with these centres in order to conduct situation assessment (i.e. information in regard to NBS-related diseases as well as resources/barriers in the Partner Country).
- Identify ways in which the IFCC can provide lacking resources and support.
- Develop a detailed protocol for an initial Pilot Project specific to each Partner Country. The proposal will be presented to the Partner Country via the respective IFCC member society. The Pilot Project implementation must be conditional on the Partner Country's commitment to its continuation following IFCC's initial financial support.
- Implement the Pilot Project in participating centres in each Partner Country in collaboration with the IFCC member society and other stakeholders.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of the overall IFCC NBS Initiative, as well as the progress of specific Pilot Projects, through data collection and on-site/virtual visits by dispatching scientific teams to each Partner Country.
- Plan for the expansion of the IFCC's NBS Initiative, as well as the expansion of each NBS Pilot Project.

Task Force Co-Chairs Addresses:

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13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
E. Amann	Co-Chair	DE	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
Q. Meng	Co-Chair	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
I. Blasutig	Member & Secretary	CA	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
R. Bais	Member	AU	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
JM. Giannoli	Member	FR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Guimarães	Member	BR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
P. Kumar Dabla	Member	IN	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
E. Lianidou	Member	GR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Perret-Liaudet	Member	FR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Thomas	Member	UK	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Vassault	Member	FR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
S. Wheeler	Member	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
C. Zhang	Member	CN	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
K. A. Cendejas	Corp. Rep./Bio-Rad	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
J. Lin	Corp. Rep./Abbott	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12

Scope & Mandate

iQC Programme:

- Identify vendors capable of providing quality control materials and associated software for on-going monitoring.
- Develop training program for participating laboratories.
- Form scientific support teams to train and support staff on-site at participating laboratories.
- Plan for maintenance and monitoring of the iQC program by the IFCC.

EQA Programme:

- Through a call for applications to participate, select countries for the pilot program, and in collaboration with the respective member societies, select candidate participating laboratories within each country. A formal call for participation by developing countries will be issued soon by the IFCC office.
- Through on-site visits, evaluate the preparedness of the participating laboratories for subscription to the EQA program and identify gaps that must be addressed.
- Retain a vendor through an open bidding process to provide the EQA material and software for the EQA program.
- Develop detailed written guidelines for the participating laboratories.
- Dispatch scientific support teams to help initiate the EQA program at the participating labs. Expert teams will be formed by the taskforce from IFCC membership and will include both senior and young scientists.
- Plan for maintenance and monitoring of the EQA's progress by the IFCC.
- Develop a plan for expansion of the EQA program in respect of geographical scope and included laboratory tests.

Task Force Co-Chairs Addresses:

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13.1.19 - TF Outcome Studies in Lab Medicine (TF-OSLM)

At the time of printing this Handbook the Task force was not formed. Please refer to the IFCC website to view the current project.

13.1.20 - TF Global Reference Interval Consortium (TF-GRIDLC)

At the time of printing this Handbook the Task force was not formed. Please refer to the IFCC website to view the current project.

13.1.21 Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)

Membership

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
A. Park	Chair	UK	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
H. Can Çubukçu	Member	TR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
R. El-Sharaway	Member	EG	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
M. Kneip Fleury	Member	BR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
L. Langman	Member	US	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
P. Mitra	Member	IN	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
N. Tabatadze	Member	GE	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12

Coordinators

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
R. Shresta	Asia Pacific area	NP	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
A. Fares-Taie	C. for Latin/North America area	AR	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12
P. Hamilton	C. for Europe and Africa area	UK	1 st	2021 01 - 2023 12

Scope & Mandate

- Prepare initial terms of reference for a new taskforce on global eLearning/eAcademy
- Recruit Webinar Coordinator(s) with relevant technical and scientific expertise
- Initiate Live Monthly Webinars starting in January 2021, broadcast globally across different time zones, with each webinar consisting of a panel of 2-3 speakers and panel discussion
- Initiate development of recorded webinars for publication on the eAcademy platform
- Create new online courses, certificate programs, practical workshops, and tutorials delivered through Workcast or eAcademy

Deliverables

Development of eLearning programs in the field of laboratory medicine, which include:

- Live Webinars – Global Broadcast
- Recorded Webinars for the eAcademy Platform

- Online courses and certificate programs
- Online practical workshops and tutorials

Task Force Chair Address:

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13.2. IFCC Professional Exchange Programme (PEP)

IFCC offers a small number of scholarships each year to facilitate professional exchange programmes for young scientists. The purpose of professional exchange programmes is to:

- Promote international co-operation between laboratories
- Facilitate the exchange of young laboratory scientists between IFCC Member societies
- Share high level scientific or management skills
- Introduce new or improved scientific or management skills to the applicant's laboratory.

Applicants for an IFCC professional exchange programme will:

- be a member of an IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society
- be aged under 40 years at the time of the exchange programme
- have a specific project to complete in a designated host laboratory
- not have received funding from IFCC for other PEPs.

Applications must have the support of both partner laboratories.

Duration of exchanges: 3 months maximum.

Successful applicants will be entitled to receive economy return travel expenses from his/her home base to the host laboratory and a subsistence allowance for a maximum of three months.

At the completion of a professional exchange programme the successful applicant is required to:

- Write a short report of his/her experience for publication in IFCC News.
- Where appropriate, submit a scientific paper for publication in the electronic journal of IFCC.

These exchange programmes are open for laboratories in all countries where an IFCC member society is active.

For complete details of these programmes and how to apply for participation, please visit the IFCC website at: <https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/pep-professional-exchange-programme/>

IFCC has developed two categories of professional exchange programme:

- Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)
- Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP).

13.2.1. Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP)

The purpose of a PSEP is to exchange or develop high level scientific information or skills.

Applications for a PSEP may come from any IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society.

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; Scientific publications resulting from this exchange programme should acknowledge IFCC's support.

13.2.2. Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP)

The purpose of a PMEP 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 Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP) may only come from IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national societies that are in countries where quality management and/or laboratory accreditation are at an early stage of development.

Examples of PMEP 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 PMEP will normally be in the same IFCC Region as the applicant.

13.3. IFCC 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 member of IFCC and should be less than 40y of age on 1 January of the year in which the congress or conference occurs. Priority will be given to applicants who are submitting an abstract to the meeting. IFCC-Roche travel scholarships may be used for any relevant international scientific congress or conference. Each year IFCC promotes the scheme and lists some IFCC meetings that do qualify, but this list is not exclusive. 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 scholarships 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.

Applicants will be required to complete the application form that can be obtained from the IFCC Office (ifcc@ifcc.org). The completed application should be submitted, together with supporting information, to the IFCC Office.

IFCC acknowledges the generous sponsorship from Roche Diagnostics GmbH for this scheme.

Additionally, IFCC is able to offer one other travel scholarship that follows similar rules to those specified above, although it may be possible for the scholarship recipient to attend a congress or conference in his/her own country:

- IFCC travel scholarship

