

153rd Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board May 18th, 2021

Minutes

The 153rd Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held via Zoom Conference

Participants:

EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative (ROCHE)
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
Sunil Sethi	(SSE)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)
Ana-Maria Šimundić	(AMS)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM) (excused)
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Fed of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

1.0 Preliminaries

- 1.0 Opening remarks from President
Final IFCC Conference Schedule (2021-2030)
Development of a uniform conference guideline
EFLM Regional/specialty conferences in Europe

KA and DK met with Paivi to discuss the new IFCC Conference schedule and development of uniform guideline for IFCC meetings. (WorldLab, EuroMedLab, and Regional/Special Conferences)

KA, AHA and DK also met with EFLM and clarified EuroMedLab congress as a joint congress between IFCC and EFLM. An agreement was reached on the share of funds to EFLM which significantly increases revenue to EFLM. It was also agreed that EFLM can have regional specialized meetings that are not international and not competitive with WorldLab. **Paivi and KA will update the current IFCC and EFLM agreement for future EuroMedLab congresses.**

EFLM-AFCB joint events and IFCC's role

KA suggested that the Regions should be able to organize joint conferences with other Regions, with the IFCC as a partner, providing support through meeting planning as part of the COC and/or scientific committee, granting auspices and advertising, providing IFCC

speakers/symposia, and providing scholarships, etc. but not requiring any share of the revenue.

IFCC Annual Town hall

The Town halls will be an annual event and an opportunity for the IFCC National Society and Corporation members to meet the EB and discuss timely issues and ask questions. The Regional Boards and National Society executives will also be invited to attend. There will be one Town hall for the Americas; one for Europe/Middle East/Africa; and a third one for Asia/Pacific members. A separate townhall will be arranged for Corporate members. They will be scheduled for the fall (September, October and/or November) of this year, for 3 hours, including a half hour presentation and 2.5 hours for discussion and questions. **KA to work with DK and PB to organize these.**

IFCC Conference Tax Status (consultation with Swiss and German Law Firms)

We have a written opinion from tax lawyers that the IFCC is not required to pay income tax. The IFCC will work with PCO and new accounting firm to deal with VAT that must be paid, depending on the country where the IFCC activity is taking place.

Appointment of a New Accounting Firm for IFC

KA received proposals from KPMG, PwC and Deloitte to provide accounting services to IFCC, and KPMG was chosen. KA, AHA and DK met with KPMG representatives to describe the IFCC activities and accounting needs, and a further implementation meeting is planned with the IFCC Office staff for the end of June when KA, and AHA if possible, will be in Milan. In the meantime KPMG will discuss the IFCC tax position with their Swiss colleagues to better recommend on the IFCC accounting needs. **KA to finalize agenda for meeting with Office, KPMG and possibly other IFCC officers for June 24 and 25, if travel is possible.**

Liaisons should contact the groups they represent for updates and keep in touch and receive regular communication.

- 1.1.150 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of February 24th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated. AMLR noted that the COLABIOCLI meeting date are 30 Mar to 2 Apr, 2022.
- 1.1.151 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of March 31st, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated
- 1.1.152 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of April 28th, 2021
The draft minutes will be circulated soon.

Action List from 152nd EB Meeting

Going forward DK will create an action item list soon after the EB meeting and the full minutes will follow at a later date.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan

Strategic plan summary for Handbook

This was revised with the EB suggestions. **The EB was asked to provide any additional suggestions by May 25.**

13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS) – Liaison: SH

A meeting was held with the CDC, and a CDC representative will be added to the TF-NBS. The TF-NBS met at the end of March and next meeting is planned for June. The survey of prospective sites has been circulated with a deadline of end of June.

- 13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ) – Liaison: SSE**
The TF-GLQ has been active with frequent meetings. Ten counties have been selected and notified for the pilot project. Planning is ongoing.
- 13.1.19 Task Force on Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM)**
Membership call for nominations
The call for nominations has been issued with a June 30 deadline. This TF will be working with other functional groups including C-VPLM and TF-CM to achieve its objectives.
- 13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals consortium (TF-GRID)**
Insoft is working on the website with completion expected by the end of May. **KA is working on the Call for Nominations for the TF-GRID, the last TF to be formed, that will be released soon** (completed on May 25 and circulated to the IFCC member societies and corporate members).
- 13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL) – Liaison: AMLR**
The TF-GLE has been active with 25 webinar proposals for 2021. A webinar was presented on May10 and one is planned for June 6, with simultaneous translation into Chinese. Sponsorship from Siemens (50,000 Euros annually) and Nader Rifai/Boston Children’s Hospital (\$15,000 USD annually) has been finalized for 3 years.
- 13.0 Task Forces**
- 13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS) – Liaison: AHA**
The TF-YS will be presenting a webinar on clinical laboratory applications of MS/MS and registration is open. The TF-YS will be presenting at WorldLab Seoul. KA suggested that opportunities for YS should be increased and there should be a meeting with the TF-YS to discuss new ideas. A questionnaire on residency training programs in Lab Medicine/Pathology in different regions will be sent out soon. AHA noted that there is a potential concern about the security of the IFCC Website
- 13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H) – Liaison: AHA**
Contribution to the IFCC 70th anniversary History book
2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of IFCC (founded in 1952) and there should be a major celebration, with activities at all major IFCC events in 2022 (presentations, posters, a video, etc.. highlighting history and achievements). **A committee including the EB, Corporate members and the IFCC Office should begin planning for the celebration.** The TF-H is working on a history book and good progress is being made.
- 13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM) – Liaison JP**
Proposed survey of Corporate Members
The TF-CM prepared a survey that was sent to EB for feedback. Additional comments are requested by May 23, and the final version will be reviewed at the next EB meeting. Going forward this will be an annual survey, sent out at the beginning of the year with the invoice for annual dues, so that the TF-CM can address any concerns throughout the year.
Release of Corporate Members survey/March 2021 results
The EB reviewed the last Corporate Members survey from 2021 and agreed that the results should be shared with members.
- 13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19 – Liaison KA**
The antigen testing guideline has been published in CCLM with free downloads. This is the fifth guideline released to date and the response has been very positive, especially from developing countries. The next guideline will address monitoring vaccinations and will be released in June or July when there is more published evidence, particularly on neutralizing antibody assays.

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications

Libyan Association of Clinical Pathology LACP

The e-voting ended on May 15, 2021 and 50 Full Members voted unanimously to approve membership for the Libyan Association of Clinical Pathology.

2.4 Annual Dues

Update on 2021 dues payment

There are still outstanding payments, but the situation is not unusual, and **the Office will send out reminders to those who have not paid**. If necessary, EB representatives may be asked to help in contacting delinquent members.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.4 Annual Dues

Update 2021 dues

A number of Corporate members have not yet paid but PB says this is what is usually seen. **JP will raise the issue at the TF-CM meeting. The Office will send reminders to those companies that have not paid.**

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 WHO – Liaison ABO

Communication has been established with WHO and ABO is being invited to attend meetings. The IFCC has been asked to name up to 10 members to attend a meeting next month regarding production of pharmaceutical products. **KA will work with ABO to identify members from the EB, SD and ETD, and JP will help identify Corporate members to participate.**

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC) – Liaison: AH

7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)

Munich, November 28 – December 2, 2021

It was agreed that there should be a virtual component to the Munich EuroMedLab congress since many parts of the world may still be dealing with COVID and will not be able to attend, and many others may not be able to afford to attend. An announcement should be made no later than the summer. **KA will discuss this with the COC.**

Proposal for TV Channel

The COC is considering some form of TV coverage for the Munich EuroMedLab meeting. KA, AHA and DK felt this could be useful. **KA will discuss this with the COC.**

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, March 30 – April 2, 2022

The program has been updated on the website. AMLR provided information on airport access to the meeting. JP confirmed that sponsorship information has been sent to all Corporate members and will be discussed at the next TF-CM meeting.

General Conference

The General Conference will be held in the spring or fall of 2022. The conference will be a 3 day program. **The Office and MZ are investigating possible venues, including travel and accommodation cost for delegates.** It was noted that early spring or fall may be a better time for the meeting, to avoid being too close in time to the Seoul WorldLab meeting. A 70th IFCC anniversary celebration will be included.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD) – Liaison: JP

8.3.61 Working Group “Development of a Reference Measurement System PT/INR Standardization” (WG-PT-INR)
The MoU with SSC/ISTH has been signed.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD) - Liaison: DK

9.2.13 Committee on Kidney Disease - (C-KD)
F. Alcantara (BR) Chair substitution
The EB approved the recommendation from the EMD EC to replace F. Alcantara as the Chair of the C-KD. **DK will advise Nader.**

9.40 Other
Cloud storage for functional group documents
A concern was raised regarding the accidental loss of functional group documents. **The Office will investigate cloud storage options.**

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) – liaison SH

11.40 Other
Partnership Agreement for HIMSS Partners Innovation Exchange (HIMSS PIE initiative).
The HIMSS PIE agreement has been signed.

11.2.3 Committee on Omics Translation (C-OT)
The EB approved the recommendation for the nomination of Elie Flux (Roche, FR) as a new Corporate member of C-OT.

12.00 IFCC Awards

12.1 Awards Committee
Membership
The Regional Federations will be asked to extend the term of current members or nominate new members to the Awards Committee.

15.00 Finances

15.2 Treasurer’s report
AHA presented an update on the IFCC finances. The audit of the IFCC accounts for 2020 has been completed and there were no issues noted. All membership dues have been invoiced. There has not been much activity by any of the IFCC functional groups and thus expenses have been minimal, and the deficit budgeted for 2021 will likely not occur, even without the budgeted EuroMedLab revenue. Investment activities are being monitored and the modest return is acceptable for our conservative investments.

19.0 Meetings

19.80 Executive Board Meetings – conference calls:

- Tuesday, May 18th
- Wednesday, June 23rd
- Wednesday, July 28th

- Milan office: KA will meet with Office staff, MZ, KPMG, and others as available on June 25, 2021.

- Lake Maggiore: September 2021, dates to be defined (2 ½ days).
- December 1st – 2nd and 3rd (2 full days + ½ day) at EML Munich

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.1 IFCC Office

New staff member recruitment

The new Office staff member has been hired and Smeralda Skenderaj will start on June 1, 2021.

16.3 Nominations Committee

Membership

The chair will be Leslie Lai. The Regional Federations will be asked to extend the term of current members or nominate new members to the Nomination Committee.

16.4 Annual Report 2020

The final version of the Annual Report 2020 is complete and the link to the on-line publication will be available soon.

16.5 Handbook 2021-2023

The final draft of the Handbook is ready, pending last details to be defined by the EB.