

157th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board January 25th, 2022

Minutes

The 157th 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)
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

Apologies

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)

Substitute Appointments Approved by the EB:

Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB) substituting for Sunil Sethi until June 2022
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM) replacing Ana-Maria Šimundić for 2022 and 2023

AGENDA ITEMS from 157th EB meeting

1.0

Preliminaries

1.0

Opening remarks from President

- *Replacement for AMS and SSE*

KA welcomed the new EB members: Tomris Ozben, replacing Ana-Maria Simundic as the EFLM representative for the remainder of this EB term, and Endang Hoyaranda, substituting for Sunil Sethi as the APFCB representative until June, 2022. Because TO is a replacement, the recommendation from EFLM, as approved by the EB, will be ratified by a Council vote, the process confirmed with the IFCC statutes and our lawyer.

- *Development of an IFCC Virtual Platform to provide a hybrid option for all future IFCC conferences/events*
Information on two companies being considered as providers for a virtual meeting platform, InEvent and Hopen, was shared with EB for comments. Both providers offer significant savings to the IFCC over current costs for virtual meetings (through a yearly subscription option of about 25,000 euro). The platform will be specifically customized for the IFCC Brand, and perhaps for Federations. The platform can be used for any conferences, events, town halls, or other committee meetings. Training will be provided and use of a single platform will make it easier for users to become familiar with features and operation. A demo will be arranged with each company for a group from the EB (KA, DK, SH, JP), Office staff, someone from MZ and others who would like to attend. It was noted that the Office staff could manage small events but for conferences and large events we would need a conference planner/organizer to organize and manage the virtual meetings. This could be our PCO, MZ. KA will discuss this with MZ. The EB is supportive of this initiative.
- *WorldLab 2024 Status*
It may be that WL2024 may not be possible due to pandemic delays in identifying a site and planning the meeting. The Societies are not in a position to bid for WL2024 due to uncertainty around COVID. KA has considered China but there would be a conflict with the APFCB conference in the same year. Other possible locations would be somewhere in Europe, or in Dubai. Another option is to have a Specialty Conference on Precision Medicine instead, held in a location that is easy for sponsors and delegates to travel to. Possible locations might be a joint meeting in Sydney AUS with the APFCB meeting, or Tunisia or Saudi Arabia with the AFCB. AH will ask if Arab Federation it would be interested in hosting the specialty conference and KA will contact Helen Martin. We will need to make a decision in the next few months.
- *EuroMedLab 2025 Call for Proposals*
The call for proposals will be released in April (likely after the Munich congress) when it is hoped that COVID will be much less of a concern.
- *Update on Global Lab Medicine Week*
The official launch of this initiative will be at EuroMedLab in Munich. Some Federations have joined the Working Group and a call is out for Corporate members and for national champions. Champions will not sit on the WG directly but will help to promote and facilitate activities in their regions. CPD is meeting with a potential marketing company in Argentina to consider their services in developing a marketing program for the Global Lab Medicine Week initiative. EB members are asked to email any suggestions for a marketing company to KA or to the Working Group. The 3rd week of April has been identified as the likely Global Lab Medicine Week.
- *RFP for a New IT partner*
InSoft is having problems providing support for the IFCC activities, particularly the many new initiatives, however they have said they will continue to support the IFCC while we find another provider. An RFP is being developed to send out to top rated companies globally, with a goal of identifying a new provider by the end of the year. TO noted that EFLM has looked at some options and we will share our options with EFLM.
- *IFCC Functional Units (Committees, TFs, WGs):*
 - Reporting Structure for IFCC Functional Groups
 - Virtual versus in person meeting schedule

These items were deferred until our strategic meeting in February. We will also consider strategic planning for the Office at that meeting. It was confirmed that PB copies other Office staff on EB decisions made via email.
- *IFCC Foundation (status, board renewal, future goals).*
Deferred until next meeting.

- *IFCC Accreditation Program*
It appears that most National Societies will only accept accreditation from their own groups. The accreditation will start with just IFCC meetings/events that can be presented to national societies. SH has contacted Adrian Park and is waiting for a response. Silvia CL will arrange for SH to attend the next TF-GEL meeting.
- *Initiating an MOU with ICHOM (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement)*
Deferred to next meeting.
- *Shaping IFCC's Digital Future: A Global Lab Med Digital Education Plan*
Deferred to next meeting.
- *New Profit-Sharing Formula with the PCO*
A new agreements has been signed with MZ. The office expenses for EFLM that were previously covered by IFCC have been transferred to EFLM.

1.1.156 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of December 15th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated for review.

15.00 Finances

15.2 Treasurer report
Financial report

AHA reported that the final 2021 financial report is being prepared. The projected surplus is 444,995.00 CHF.

2022 IFCC Budget approval

The 2022 budget projects an expected deficit of 824,500.00 CHF including anticipated congress income. Projected expenses are increased at 2,009,100.00 CHF due to expenses for the new TF activities and initiatives. Division budgets are about the same as for 2021 except for a small increase for ETD. Budgets include funding for 2 meetings, at WorldLab or EML, and the General Conference. The EB was asked to email any questions regarding the budget to AHA in preparation for a vote to approve the budget by February 1, 2022.

a) New Task Forces:

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

There has been no update from the TF recently. PB will advise the TF to provide regular minutes of their meetings to be circulated to the EB. KA expressed concerned about lack of progress and communication.

13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ) – Liaison: SSE

The TF has been very active. Oneworld Accuracy has been selected as the EQA provider working with the 10 country pilot project. Currently the agreements are being finalized and signed, while the logistics to ship the samples to the participating countries are being worked out with local contacts in the countries and Oneworld Accuracy.

13.1.19 Task Force on Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM) – Liaison DK

The first committee meeting was January 24, 2022 and KA attended to provide an introduction to the TF members and ensure a consistent understanding of the mandate. The TF is setting up 2 subcommittees to address the literature search, and the research projects. A request was made to add a new Member (Verena Gounden (ZA)) to the TF.

13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals Database (TF-GRID) – Liaison KA

The TF has had 2 meetings thus far and is making good progress. There is a delay in the development of the Global Reference Interval Database due to problems at InSoft, but the website design has begun.

- 13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL) – Liaison: AMLR**
The TF continues to be active and the IFCC Webinars are starting up again now with 2 per month planned. The new guidelines will hopefully improve the consistency of webinar design and presentation. It has been possible to translate some webinars into Spanish and Chinese (by the Chinese society) but not into French, as yet. AH pointed out that French is a common language in Africa, as it is in Europe and Canada. While English is the official language of the IFCC, there is support for translation where it promotes educational activity. More investigation is needed to determine a plan for French translation.
- 13.0 Task Forces**
- 13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)**
The TF-E is active and met with KA. A meeting is planned for Seoul and at the General Conference. TO will be the new liaison.
- 13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS) – Liaison: AHA**
Questionnaire on residency training worldwide in Lab Med/ Pathology
The questionnaire is completed and the TF is working to analyse the results. The plans for the YS Workshop in Seoul are going well. KA suggested that it would be ideal for the TF to have more visibility and communication of their activities, perhaps via the Newsletter.
- 13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H) – Liaison: AHA**
Contribution to the IFCC 70th anniversary History book
The authors have all the material from the office, and from other sources, and are compiling the book, to be ready for the GC.
- 13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM) – Liaison JP**
The TF-CM plans to meet virtually every 2 months, and will meet in person in Milan prior to EML.
Yearly Corporate Members survey results
The results of the Corporate Members survey are being reviewed. One initial observation is the survey can be simplified in the future.
IVDR implementation (May 26th, 2022)
The implementation of IVDR has been delayed for a few years based on concerns, primarily from small companies and clinical laboratories.
Membership Certificates
The IFCC membership certificates to be sent to Corporate Members and representatives are completed and the plan is to send them out along with the membership invoices. Tricia will provide an update to the EB.
Membership
The EB approved the recommendation for John Sebastian to serve a second term, and to publish a call for a new member.
- 13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19 – Liaison KA**
Proposal for a new “WG on SARS-COV-2 variants”
The TF published a manuscript just before holidays on new COVID variants and 2 additional papers on diagnostic tests and variants were submitted in last 2 weeks. The literature reviews and updates online continue to be updated.

- 2.0 Full Member Societies**
2.2 Applications
“Belorussian Society of Laboratory Medicine” as Full Member
A confirmation vote by Council will be set up.
- 3.0 Corporate Members**
3.2 Applications
There is membership interest from *Guangzhou Wondfo Biotechnology* that is pending revenue.
- 5.0 Regional Organisations**
Regional Federations updates
5.2. Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
MoU revision proposal.
The organizing committee for the COABIOCLI congress is unable to submit to the MedTech code of ethics review. The IFCC Office and MZ will provide assistance if they can.
- 6.0 International and Professional Organisations**
6.13 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM)
Punta del Este (UY) Congress: 5th – 8th May, 2022
The IFCC Symposium on “Value and Impact of Clinical Laboratories in Public Health and Patient Care Delivery” is confirmed.
- 7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC) – Liaison: AH**
7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2022, Seoul (KR)
June 26-30, 2022
KA noted that he expects the WorldLab congress to go ahead in June, and will not be postponed again.
- 7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)
April 10th-14th
KA noted that he expects the EML Congress to go ahead in April, and will not be postponed again.
- 9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD) - Liaison: DK**
9.40 Other
Document Cloud storage
The EB approved the proposal to set up mandatory cloud data storage for all committees and functional groups, provided by IFCC. The procedure to achieve this will be worked out with the Office.
- 13.03 Scholarships**
Three scholarship recipients (out of the previously WL 2020 selected ones) have chosen to come to EML Munich. The rest will be granted for WL Seoul 2022.

19.0 Meetings

19.1.24 Council meeting

Following the postponement of the EML, the Council meeting will be held at the EML on April 10th from 1.00 to 4.00 pm, as a hybrid event

19.6.00 General Conference

The Agreement is signed with Radisson Collections Hotel, Brussels, Belgium, as the venue for the GC, to be held October 27-31, 2022.

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-collection-grand-place-brussels>

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

IFCC Strategic and Organizational Review: The Path Forward'
A new date will be identified, possibly in March 2022.

Proposal of venues for in person EB Meetings:

- León (MX) – EB delegation, no EB meeting planned
- Munich (DE) – EuroMedLab
- Seoul (KR) - WorldLab
- GC - Brussels (BE)

Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls

January 25th - 3 hours

February/March: to be defined

Other dates to be defined

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

The EB approved the slate of renewals as sent out by PB. New candidates need to confirm that they are active.