

# 158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Minutes

The 158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in Milano and via Zoom Conference.

### Participants:

#### EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President - in person
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary - in person
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer - connected via zoom on Friday – afterwards in person
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative (ROCHE) connected via zoom
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) – in person
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB) – in person
Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clin Bio and Lab Med (APFCB) connected via zoom
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM) – in person
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) connected via zoom
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC) in person

#### Divisions Chairs:

Tahir Pillay	(TS)	CPD Chair – in person
Nader Rifai	(NF)	EMD Chair – in person
Sergio Bernardini	(SB)	ETD Chair – in person
Philippe Gillery	(PG)	SD Chair – connected via zoom
Christa Cobbaert	(CC)	SD Vice-Chair – connected via zoom
Päivi Laitinen	(PL)	C-CC Chair – connected via zoom

### AGENDA ITEMS from 158<sup>th</sup> EB meeting

#### 1.0

#### **Preliminaries**

The EB met with the Division Chairs and members, including C-CC, on February 25 and 26, 2022.

*Initiating an MOU with ICHOM (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement)*

This item was deferred to the next meeting

*Shaping IFCC's Digital Future: A Global Lab Med Digital Education Plan*

This item was deferred to the next meeting

*Townhalls 2021 survey results*

Positive comments were received on the Townhall meetings. Since there will be a General Conference this year, the Townhalls may be cancelled this year except for the TF-CM Townhall.

1.1.156 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Final minutes have been circulated

1.1.157 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Draft minutes have been circulated.

*Action List from 157<sup>th</sup> EB Meetings*

The Action Items from 157<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting were reviewed and have been addressed, or are included in the current agenda.

## **15.00 Finances**

15.2 Treasurer's report - Financial issues

AHA reported that there were no major updates to the finances. Membership dues are being received and approximately 90% of fees have been received.

### **a) New Task Forces:**

#### **13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS)**

KA noted that the TF-NBS is progressing slowly, and their plan is not to start the program for 3 years. Thus far they have completed one survey. KA and SH will meet with the chairs to explain that the EB has reviewed the plan and since the project is very important for the IFCC and for the developing countries, the EB would like it to move more quickly.

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

The Task Force developed a partnership framework for the first pilot program to begin in 2022. The responses to the RFP were reviewed and OneWorld Accuracy was chosen, as the most cost effective option. The EB approved this decision to go ahead with 1WA

#### **13.1.19 Task Force on Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM)**

KA reported that the TF has just started and is making good progress with 2 meetings so far and a third planned. They have already started planning for the research projects and data search project.

#### **13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals database (TF-GRID)**

KA reported that the TF is making good progress and has formed 4 subgroups each working on different aspect of the GRID project.

#### **13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)**

*IFCC Webinars*

High quality webinars are being provided every 2nd week, as planned. KA feels that some of the coordinators can be more active and this will be explored with the Silvia CL who noted that in some cases it is more efficient for the Office staff to manage speakers

directly. Webinars will continue using WordCast and will not migrate to the new virtual platform for this year.

#### *IFCC Virtual Platform*

The IFCC virtual platform will provide a hybrid option for all future IFCC conferences/events/meetings. The InEvent demonstration confirmed that it is the best option in terms of functionality and cost.

The EB supports going forward with InEvent to work out details for a contract.

#### *IFCC Accreditation Program*

SH reported that they have reduced their expectations for the accreditation program and a revised document is being prepared by SH to be reviewed with TF-GRID.

### **13.0 Task Forces**

#### **13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)**

The EB liaison will be TO.

#### **13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS) – Liaison: AHA**

*Update on “Questionnaire on residency training worldwide Lab Med/ Pathology”*

The results of the survey are being analyzed.

*TF-YS Forum in Seoul*

The programme does not yet contain the names of the speakers. They need a confirmation of the budget before inviting speakers or ask instead local YSs to speak on the topics presented. The FORUM will be hybrid. The interactions and activities will take place face-to-face, but the virtual audience will be able to follow the program.

They have already organized a visit to a local laboratory with Dr. Yeo-Min Yun (Secretary General of COC) and Prof Junghan Song (Chairman, Congress Organizing Committee). Silvia Colli-Lanzi is contacting the YSs registered in 2020 to confirm if they are still interested to participate in person or virtually in the FORUM. With this information they will be able to know if the TF can invite more YSs with the allocated IFCC budget. It is important to have a worldwide representation in this forum for success of the activities planned.

During the EB meeting TO referred also to the letter to be sent to the corporate members for additional funding.

#### **13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H)**

The TF is completing the History Book and is also working with the CPD to promote and share the book. A decision needs to be made on providing a hardcopy of the book or a flash drive, which will be less attractive but much less expensive,

#### **13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)**

JP reported that the TF-CM is meeting monthly and is very productive.

#### **13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19**

*Proposal for a new WG on SARS-COV-2 variants*

The EB approved the new WG.

### **2.0 Full Member Societies**

#### **2.2 Applications**

*“Belorussian Society of Laboratory Medicine” as Full Member*

The vote by the Council is set up from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

#### **2.3 Possible withdrawal**

All members who have not paid have been set to 'inactive' and cannot receive benefits of membership, including voting privileges. Federation Representatives are asked to contact overdue members by phone directly to get information and see if we can do anything to assist them in paying dues. We will allow some additional time for a response and follow up later.

### **3.0 Corporate Members**

#### 3.2 Applications

*Synlab International GmbH*

The new member was approved on February 15, and had been numbered as 03.01.117. *Guangzhou Wondfo Biotechnology.*

This was previously a member (03 01 93) and has expressed a renewed interest. This is under revenue.

#### 3.3 Withdrawal

*GenScript Biotech Corp*

This company (03 01 11) has given up their membership.

*Sekisui*

This company (03 01 15) has given up their membership. They are an award sponsor and we have not been advised that this will change for this year.

### **5.0 Regional Organisations**

Regional Federations updates

#### 5.2. Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

*MOU Renewal*

AMLR stated that COLABIOCLI has no changes to the MOU, except for the address. The IFCC only has a few minor changes. The MOU will be signed at the congress in Leon. KA and DK will be attending and AHA is waiting to see if he is able to attend as well.

### **6.0 International and Professional Organisations**

#### 6.1 World Health Organization (WHO)

*Relationship update*

There was a good meeting with the WHO contact Frances Moussy. KA will provide information on the IFCC task forces on Newborn Screening and Global Lab Quality. PB has received a letter confirming the continued IFCC relationship with WHO. The hope is still to meet in person with WHO in the fall.

#### 6.13 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM)

Punta del Este (UY) Congress

The congress has been postponed to September 29<sup>th</sup>- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The IFCC Symposium will be on the "Value and Impact of Clinical Laboratories in Public Health and Patient Care Delivery". KA, DK, Brendan Meyer, and Andrew St John will be speakers with AMLR as moderator. KA noted that presenting on September 29 would be ideal for his other commitments.

### **7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)**

#### 7.2 IFCC International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ICCCLM)

IFCC WorldLab Congresses

The EB met with C-CC on Feb 25, 2022.

Paivi confirmed that the WL Seoul will be completely hybrid.

A Specialty Conference in China in the fall of 2023 is being considered, and major Chinese IVD companies are interested in sponsoring the meeting. Qing Ming from the AACC is the contact with the Chinese organizers.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2022, Seoul (KR)  
*TF-YS Forum*

AHA confirmed that he has received an agenda for the Forum. TO has told them to contact MZ and the local Organizing Committee to advise them of their plans. The meeting will be hybrid. Funds have been confirmed. TF-YS funding will support 20 scholarships, plus attendance will be supported for the TF members. The IFCC will provide 10 scholarships and the APFCB will award 12 scholarships. There should be an effort to advertise the YS Forum. MZ is waiting for Seoul to drop travel restrictions before advertising widely.

7.2.25 IFCC WorldLab 2023, Rome (IT)  
*Request for WorldLab 2024 bid*

The deadline for the call for bids for the 2024 WorldLab Congress was extended to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Arab Society is considering hosting the WL and have indicated to AH that they will support Dubai as the location. A confirmation letter is expected. There will be a call for bids for WorldLab 2026 after WL2024 and WL2025 are confirmed. The call for bids on WL2025 will be announced after Munich. After that the WL 2026 can be addressed. KA will prepare a table with the WL and EML schedules and when the call for bids will be released.

The current WL and EML guidelines can be interpreted that the exhibition should be in a separate building, rather than in a separate, convenient area, as intended. It is important that delegates have convenient access to the exhibits, ideally located on one floor, without distracting activities (excepting scientific posters). The guidelines will be revised.

A COC meeting for the Rome WL/EMP is planned for Mar 22, 2022. There is still a lot of work to do in a short time.

7.40 Other Business

*Abbott proposal for UNIVANTS Roundtable, and a Satellite Workshop at WorldLab Seoul*  
IFCC was asked to help organize this but KA asked Tricia to deal directly with MZ which was done.

KA will attend a UNIVANTS meeting in Lisbon with other sponsors and consultants to discuss the UNIVANTS program.

7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

7.3.1.16 Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - APFCB

Endang confirmed that the dates for Sydney, Australia APFCB meeting are October 31 to November 3, 2024.

7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)

The EB meeting will be all day Wednesday and Thursday, returning home on Friday.

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI

COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022

March 30 – April 2, 2022

KA and DK and perhaps AHA plan to attend.

**8.0 Scientific Division (SD) – Liaison: JP**

The SD review was conducted on February 25, 2022.

The notes from SD review meeting are being prepared.

EB liaison to C-NPU  
ABO will be the EB liaison to the C-NPU.

Sverre Sandberg is the Chair of the ICHCLR Council and the EB representative to ICHCLR. However, Sverre is no longer a member of the EB. There is a potential concern with ICHCLR wanting to establish WGs that the SD feels may conflict with the mandate of the SD. KA will investigate the situation with Philippe, Sverre and others, and then a decision can be made.

## **9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)**

The EMD was reviewed on Feb 25.  
The notes from the EMD review meeting are being prepared.

### **9.2 Committees**

9.2.10 IFCC-AACC Pearls project (previous: Committee on distance learning (C-DL)  
There was a concern that only 12 of the Pearls had been translated. However, in a follow up to the EB meeting AMLR reported the all 24 of the Pearls have been translated and this project is completed.

9.2.12 Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers (C-CB)  
The recommendation for the new Chair, effective 2021, is Kristin Aakre.

### **9.3 Working Groups**

Personal Support (WG-PS)  
It has not been possible to identify a new Chair for this WG. Previously, it was difficult to create a sustained interest from the membership in the WG, and the recommendation from the EMD EC is to close the WG. The EB approved. It was suggested that the TF-YS may feel that mentorship is a valuable concept and if so a new group could be formed.

### **9.4. Special Projects**

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)  
The recommendation from the EMD review is to incorporate virtual presentations, either completely virtual or hybrid, combined with in-person presentations. The presentations could also be focused on more practical topics of importance to the developing countries. Another option could be to make an in-person presentation within a country and make it virtual to other locations.

### **9.40 Other**

Document Cloud storage  
Smeralda has obtained reasonable priced quotes from major IT companies. She will follow up to see if large data storage (i.e. a TB) can be shared among users with password protected individual partitions. The plan would be to make secure storage of data mandatory for all functional groups. The EB approved the plan in concept.

## **10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)**

The CPD was reviewed on Feb 26.  
The notes from CPD review meeting are being prepared.

## **11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)**

The ETD was reviewed on Feb 26.  
The notes from CPD review meeting are being prepared

- 11.8 Project proposal for a new WG on method validation  
This was discussed at the ETD review, and it was agreed to form a joint Working Group with membership from both ETD and SD.
- 11.40 Request from Sergio (ETD) to hold conference on “*Laboratory Medicine in monitoring the environment impact on Public Health*”  
TO provided an update on the EFLM Green Labs initiative. The conference Sergio is proposing is focused on the broader issue of Environmental concerns, including chemical toxicology, and the lab’s role in human biomonitoring. A session on managing lab impacts on environment, discussing clinical impacts from reagents and consumables etc, would be useful for members outside of Europe. The conference was initially planned for September 2022 and will need to be rescheduled, perhaps to next September 2023, or as a satellite meeting. KA suggested that IFCC create a TF that will focus on Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine as well as potentially Environment Toxicology at a broad level. The TF would consider how to reduce lab waste and recommend guidelines, how to monitor environmental chemicals in people, and to promote awareness of this issue among labs. Perhaps there could be collaboration with EFLM. DK will take the lead on setting up this TF in the fall. Nominations from Corporate members will be required, and JP noted that there will be a lot of interest in this, and JP also noted that Roche is a leader in environmental sustainability. AHH volunteered to be involved in this TF.
- 12.00 IFCC Awards**  
Postponed to WL Seoul, June 2022.  
It was suggested to combine the speaker dinner with the awards dinner.
- 13.03 Scholarships**  
WorldLab Munich  
Three scholarships (out of the previously WL 2020 selected ones) have chosen to come to EML Munich. The rest will be granted for WL Seoul 2022.
- COLABIOCLI Congress, March 2022:  
Two scholarships from Roche and five from IFCC will be awarded for COLABIOCLI Leon. It is hoped that COLABIOCLI will provide a further five scholarships from the grant provided to the Federation by IFCC. So far there is just one applicant for the Roche scholarship, but she does not meet the age criteria. The EB agreed to allow this applicant.
- JP noted that he has submitted paperwork for the Roche scholarships for next year and hopes to have good news for Munich.
- 13.2. IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP)  
KA recommend that the funding be doubled from 6 persons to 12 persons, and the program be advertised widely. A call for applications, both labs willing to host and YSs wanting a scholarship, should be issued. The EMD will select successful applicants, but one more person needs to be added to EMD EC to manage this program, including both PSEP and PMEP.
- 18. IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)**  
Due to pandemic, there was no activity for this group and GB wants to step aside from this project. KA will ask GB for his recommendations on the future of FEN and for another chair. It was a lot of work to create the foundation, so it would be unfortunate to dismantle it too soon. KA suggested that the name should perhaps be changed to remove “For

Emerging Nations” as this restricts the potential impact of the foundation on other potential projects.

## **19.0 Meetings**

### 19.1.24 Council meeting

Following the postponement of the EML, the Council meeting is now planned on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1.00 to 4.00 pm and will be a hybrid event.

### 19.6.00 General Conference

Dates: October 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

#### *Draft Agenda*

The agenda is being revised to move the more “exciting topics” to the first day and the functional groups reports to the second day. The plan is to have panels with noted authorities – from industry, and from science/medicine to talk about the future challenges and directions in laboratory medicine. A local government representative will also be invited to speak, a representative from WHO, and perhaps also the Director General of MedTech Europe. Past presidents will be given an opportunity to speak. The IFCC functional groups will arrive on Thursday to hold meetings on Friday before the GC. The EB will arrive on Tuesday, October 25 for 2 days of EB meetings, including meetings with the Divisions and TFs. NS representatives will arrive on the Friday and depart on Monday. There will be posters in the open areas. The reports from the functional groups will focus on the more exciting things they are doing and the vision for their groups. The Federation presidents will each have 10 min to present.

### 19.80 *Executive Board Meetings 2022 – in person*

*IFCC Strategic and Organizational Review: Strategic Meeting with Divisions Chairs*  
February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

#### *Proposal of venues for in person EB Meetings:*

February 27<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the Strategic meeting

- León (MX) – EB delegation, no EB meeting planned
- Munich (DE) – EuroMedLab: Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup>
- Seoul (KR) – WorldLab dates to be defined
- GC - Brussels (BE) – dates to be defined

#### *Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls*

To be planned as necessary

## **16.0 Organisational Matters**

### 16.1 IFCC Office

### 16.7 Project Proposals

Potential new working groups on Essential IVD Accessibility

Joris Delanghe has proposed a project to address the problem of shortages of expensive reagents in laboratories in Africa. A small group (KA, DK, AHA) will meet with him to discuss his proposal.

### 16.40 Other business

#### *IFCC Office Contract with MZ*

The EB ratified the new contract. IFCC pays for existing and new staff members, space and equipment. The EFLM staff is now paid by the EFLM entirely. MZ provides oversight



of staff and acts as consultant to IFCC. The agreement goes to 2030 but can be modified by mutual agreement.

*Office Staff*

DK and KA are meeting with Office staff on Monday regarding the workload from old projects that will start up again after the pandemic, plus the many new activities from functional groups and TFs. PB noted that there is an urgent need for clerical help that is experienced in congresses and meetings. The EB agreed to add one or two additional Office staff as required. AHA confirmed that the budget is available to do so.

*IT Platform Support.*

There is a need to hire an IT consultant for our upcoming special projects. PB suggests a consultant may be best initially, perhaps in conjunction with MZ. The EB agreed.