

# 159<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board

## April 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Minutes

#### Participants:

#### EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President - in person
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary - in person
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer - in person
Joseph Passarelli	(JP)	Corporate Members Representative (ROCHE) – in person
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) – in person
Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB) – via zoom
Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB) 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) in person
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC) in person

#### 1.0 Preliminaries

##### 1.0 Opening remarks from President *Global MEDLAB Week 2022*

A Marketing company (Naranhaus) has been contracted to support this initiative. The C-PR has been asked to take over the Global Week activity from now on, including the on-going, year-long activities. The Global lab week working group will continue as needed to provide direction to this initiative.

##### *New IT partner for IFCC*

There have been meetings with multiple companies to find a new IFCC IT company. A request for proposal (RFP) was released and six replies were received. It will be difficult to find one company that will meet all the IFCC needs. At present, Digiwedo from Rotterdam, Netherlands, appears to be the best choice. Their strength is in websites and databases and they have a partner that can provide an IFCC smartphone app. There will be additional costs for databases, the app, secure document share/storage for IFCC documents, and the e-Journal and e-News. It is estimated that total cost for new IT provider will be less than current costs.

*Rome 2023 EuroMedLab COC and Scientific Program*

KA recently attended a COC meeting for the EML Rome 2021 meeting. Concern was expressed that the scientific program is almost entirely European, without sufficient international content and specific IFCC content. The program will be revised to add three new IFCC symposia and one new EFLM symposia. One existing symposium will be relabelled as an IFCC symposia. One or two existing sessions may be relabelled as EFLM symposia. Parallel sessions will be added to accommodate the new symposia. Representatives from IFCC, EFLM and SIBioC will be asked to moderate the Plenary sessions. The plan is for all sessions to be hybrid.

*Dubai 2024 WorldLab COC and Scientific Program*

This WL location has been approved by the C-CC and a letter has gone to the national society for Saudi Arabia and to the Arab Federation to confirm acceptance of bid. The congress will be held in May 2024. The membership of the COC and Scientific Committee will be determined according to the new IFCC/EML guidelines. The contract with the Dubai conference centre will be finalized soon and an announcement of the congress will be released in May.

The call for bids for 2025 EML will be released in May, and the call for bids for 2026 WL to be released in September.

*IFCC General Conference and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans*

The EB members should arrive on the Tuesday, October 25, 2022 and the EB will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, October 26 and 27. The functional groups will meet on Friday, October 28 and EB members will join them. The General Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday, with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and special events on Saturday. Past Presidents will make a short 5-10 min presentation. Entertainment (music) will be arranged. There will be an IVD and an IFCC Scientific panel presentation. The functional group reports will be on Sunday. A QR Code system will be used to monitor delegate participation. MZ will be asked for assistance in implementing this. An organization meeting will be held in May to finalize the agenda and plans.

*IFCC-Chinese Society of Lab Medicine Joint Conference – October 2023 Shanghai*

Prof Qing Ming of the US has facilitated initial arrangements for the joint conf on Precision Medicine in October 2023 in Shanghai. Sponsors and Exhibitors will likely be primarily local Chinese/Asia Pacific vendors. Planning is ongoing.

*IFCC Virtual Platform*

PB will coordinate the training schedule for the InEvent platform for the IFCC Office staff and IT consultant. Training for the EB and other IFCC users will occur later.

*IFCC Functional Unit Reviews*

KA is reviewing the minutes from the Functional Group review meetings and Action Items will be prepared and communicated to the Division Chairs, with a copy to the appropriate EB Liaisons.

There should be regular review of each functional group and TF once a year. PB will find the form that was used previously for this, and the process will be discussed further.

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

Deferred to a future meeting.

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

Deferred to a future meeting.

### *Townhall 2022 for Corporate Members*

The GC will be broadcast to all and will be recorded to allow maximum availability. Thus, there is no need for any Townhall meetings in 2022.

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

1.1.158 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
The draft minutes will be circulated.

### *Action List from 158<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting*

The Action Items from the 158<sup>th</sup> EB meeting were reviewed and a revised list will be distributed to EB members.

The funding for EI Microscopio was reduced to \$5,000 USD per year from \$15,000 USD for 2022 and funding will end at that time. Hernan was notified and has responded that he appreciates the funding that has been provided to date. He will survey the COLABIOCLI membership for continued interest in the project and if warranted they will try to get corporate funding for the project. KA will respond to Hernan's letter.

## **15.00 Finances**

### 15.2 *Treasurer report*

The Treasurer's report was given at the Council meeting. KPMG has provided a year-end financial report. PB and AHA will work with KPMG on the necessary revisions to the report.

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

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

KA has emailed the Chair and there will be a meeting to discuss the TF-NBS schedule for activities.

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

1WA is sending samples to participating countries. Serbia has had some problems with customs but the other shipments are arriving without issue. It was noted that the cost of expanding the project will be greater if labs in new countries are included since additional transportation costs will be incurred. Likely a mix of existing countries and new countries will be included, to a maximum of 100,000 Euros, as budgeted. It was confirmed that the project will be not-for-profit and limited to low-income countries who would not otherwise be able to afford a program, and there should be no concern that the IFCC is competing with commercial providers.

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

#### *Call for research grant application*

The EB reviewed the proposal from OSLM to call for research grant applications. KA will review the proposal further and a response will be provided to TF-OSLM.

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

#### *Global Reference Interval Database*

KA met with the TF-GRID in Munich. The chair, Dr. Jakob Zirk who is an expert in RI is moving the group along very well. They have set up several sub-committees and are designing the first searchable database.

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

#### *IFCC eLearning Accreditation Program*

SH has created documents for evaluation of educational presentations that would be eligible for CE. The plan is to start using these forms for the Webinars in September. The next task is to create the certificate provided to attendees with a second page that describes how the sessions documents were reviewed, and which will hopefully support Category 1 CE. It was suggested to contact the European CPAC agency for information on their program and to investigate the ISO 24 standard.

AMLR reported that the translation of webinars to French is waiting for a response from the President of the French speaking organization members.

### **13.0 Task Forces**

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

The TF-E are planning to publish an article in the eNews. They will be meeting at the GC.

#### **13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS)**

##### *YS Forum*

##### *Update on "Questionnaire on residency training worldwide Lab Med/ Pathology"*

The survey on "Residency training" is completed but not yet completely analyzed. AHA and KA attended YS meeting in Munich. The planning for YS Forum at WL is well along. There are a number of good topics plus a visit to a local laboratory. Some speakers still need to be identified. More YS scholarships have been awarded and some of the funding for those not able to attend will be used to offset additional expenses for some other YSs who need to stay longer. The TF-YS has asked for YS specific awards during the congress. It was suggested that the IFCC could sponsor one award for best oral presentation and one award for the best poster, possibly 200-250 Euros and a plaque. There was some debate on if only YSs should be allowed to attend the YS-Forum but no decision was reached.

##### *International Curriculum*

It was noted that there should be an international curriculum for the training/education of Clinical Chemists, to standardize the training and to support the mobility for YSs. The EB has requested the ELFM syllabus (not including the CSLI documents) to provide to the IFCC TF-YS.

##### *YS Visibility*

KA feels that the TF-YS could be more active and have greater communication with all IFCC YSs and the entire IFCC family. Regular articles in the eNews is suggested to make more people aware of their activities. A call for nomination for more corresponding members is also recommended.

The TF-YS were asked to support the Global MedLab week on social media and asked to provide videos of their labs for Naranhaus to use in promotions.

#### **13.20 Membership**

##### *New Member*

Sean Campbell (US), proposed as new Member 2022-2024

All nominations for new members will be addressed in an email.

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

##### *The IFCC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History book*

The IFCC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History book will be ready for ready for the GC in Brussels.

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

#### *Yearly Corporate Members survey results*

JP reviewed the results from the Yearly Corporate Members Survey. The Discount on IFCC congresses is a major reason for companies joining the IFCC. Respondents were positive about being associated with the IFCC as a global leader in laboratory medicine, and about being involved with the SD standardization/harmonization activities. The TF-CM is still reviewing information from the survey. There will be discussion on how to respond to the survey findings. The survey will be simplified for the next release. Certificates for corporate member companies and representatives are ready to be sent out with invoices for annual dues. PB will send the final version to KA to review prior to sending them out.

### 13.20 Membership

#### *New member*

Andy Quintenz (US), from Bio-Rad, was approved via email as a new Member.

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

The TF-COVID has just submitted another paper to the CCA, on variants, thanks to the work of the new WG led by Brendan Henry. There is a presentation at the EML congress. The TF will continue as important issues with the pandemic continue.

## **2.0 Full Member Societies**

### 2.2 Applications

#### *"Belarussian Society of Laboratory Medicine" as Full Member*

The Council vote was held from March 1-31, 2022. The results of the vote were in favour of accepting the Belarus Society but there was not a sufficient number of National Society member respondents for a quorum, see:

<https://secure.electionbuddy.com/results/HCMN5MZZPF5V>

It was decided to hold a second vote at a later date after verifying that the Belarus Society still wishes to join. KA will write to Belarussian society regarding the new vote, and the results will be released to the IFCC membership.

## **3.0 Corporate Members**

### 3.2 Applications

*DiaSorin*, numbering 03.01.118, approved on March 8<sup>th</sup>

*Biomasterclin Laboratorios Venezuela*, approved on March 21<sup>st</sup>

*Guangzhou Wondfo Biotechnology* 03 01 93, has indicated renewed interest, and is a pending revue decision.

## **5.0 Regional Organisations**

### Regional Federations updates

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

#### MoU revision proposal

The MoU was reviewed and was signed at the COLABIOCLI meeting in Leon.

Travel expenses for EB travel to Regional meeting/congress was discussed and it was agreed that if an EB meeting is scheduled at the meeting/congress then the EB will pay for all expenses except complimentary registration. If EB members are invited to attend a Regional meeting/congress then the host should cover the hotel expenses at least in addition to complimentary registration.

## **6.0 International and Professional Organisations**

### 6.1 WHO

### *Relationship Update*

An in-person meeting with the WHO contact, Francis Moussy, will be planned for later in the year. Mr Moussy will be invited to attend the GC.

- 6.13 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM) Punta del Este (UY) Congress: September 29<sup>th</sup>- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - in person  
The IFCC Symposium on “Value and Impact of Clinical Laboratories in Public Health and Patient Care” has been confirmed. KA, DK, Andrew St. John and Brendan Meyer will present and AMLR will moderate. As per the agreement between IFCC and WASPaLM, WASPaLM will cover the hotel and registration expenses and the IFCC will cover flight expenses.
- 7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)**
- 7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2022, Seoul (KR), June 26-30, 2022  
*WorldLab 2022/APFCB 2022 Joint Congress*  
KA will organize a meeting (KA, MZ, Korean members, and Endang) to review the plans and status of the WL congress, and to make plans to aggressively promote the congress. There will be an announcement advertising an opportunity for late breaking abstracts.
- 7.2.25 IFCC WorldLab 2023, Rome (IT)  
June 21 - 25, 2023  
*Corporate Sponsorship Package*  
There was a suggestion that there be an increase in the cost for the corporate sponsorship package by 5-10% for WL Rome. The EB opposed the recommendation. However, it will be considered for future congresses. The EB was also opposed to any increase in delegate registration fees.
- 7.3.26 IFCC WorldLab 2024, Dubai (UAE)  
Proposed dates: May 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
KA will work with the Office on the plans for WL Dubai when in Milan in May.
- 7.3.1.16 Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - APFCB  
See 7.2.24
- 7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE), April 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>EFLM  
The Munich EML was a very successful meeting, in terms of scientific content, corporate involvement/support, and attendance.  
*EML 2025 RFP*  
The call for bids to host EML 2025 will be released in early May.
- 7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI  
COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022, March 30 – April 2, 2022  
AMLR and DK attended the congress representing the EB. The congress had 400 delegates and 15 corporate exhibitors, all of whom were required to be tested for COVID and wear masks at the meeting. A number of awards were presented at the opening ceremony: three by COLABIOCLI, two by the Mexican College and one award by Wiener. There were three IFCC VLP presentations, 2 COLABIOCLI VLP presentations and 60 poster presentations. Young scientist scholarships included 5 from IFCC, 2 from COLABIOCLI and 2 from Roche. An additional 50 scholarships were granted by the University and 30 by industry.
- 7.40 Other Business  
*Abbott UNIVANTS*  
There will be a UNIVANTS symposium at WL Seoul.

## **8.0 Scientific Division (SD)**

### **8.13 BIPM/JCTLM**

#### *JCTLM Database Proposal*

There will be a meeting to discuss the database funding.

#### *ICHCLR*

KA, DK, AHA, Phillippe Gillery and Christa Cobbaert met with Sverre Sandberg (current EB representative to the ICHCLR) and Ian Young. The SD has expressed concern about ICHCLR activities overlapping with SD activities, and possible duplication of effort. It was suggested that ICHCLR could become part of the SD. It was agreed that Sverre should continue his term, and the proposed ICHCLR Working Groups should go ahead with SD representation. Sverre confirmed that there will be no overlap with SD activities and will provide regular updates to the EB. It was also suggested that there should be a common steering committee with JCTLM to promote communication and cooperation. KA will organize a meeting of all parties to come to agreement on these issues.

### **8.2.6 Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU) in collaboration with IUPAC**

#### *Membership*

Rebecca Ceder (SE), proposed as new Member 2022-2024.  
Decision will be made by email.

### **8.1.11 Molecular Diagnostic (C-MD)**

#### *Membership*

Ettore Capoluongo (IT), proposed as new Member 2022-2024.  
Decision will be made by email.

### **8.2.24 Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL)**

#### *Membership*

Karina Rodríguez-Capote (CA) and Nannette Brower (NL), proposed as new Members 2022-2024.  
Decision will be made by email.

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

### **9.2.10 IFCC-AACC Pearls Project**

DK will draft a letter to thank Nadir Rifai for funding the translation of the AACC Pearls of Wisdom into Spanish.

### **9.2.7 Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)**

#### *Membership*

Hailey Sharrod-Cole (UK) proposed as new Member 2022-2024.  
Decision will be made by email.

### **9.2.9 Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)**

#### *Membership*

Mahesheema Ali (US) and Prasenjit Mitra (IN) were approved as new Members for 2022-2024), via email on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### **9.40 Other**

#### *Document Cloud Storage*

Document sharing and cloud storage for IFCC functional groups will be discussed with the new IT consultant and the new IT provider.

- 10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)**  
*Update on IFCC Global Lab Medicine Week*  
 The IFCC Global Lab Medicine Week was officially launched at the opening ceremonies for EML. Plans are well underway for celebrations worldwide.
- New IFCC IT Provider*  
 An RFP for a new IT provider for the IFCC was released and discussions are underway with a potential company (Digiwedo). KA and AHA will meet with Digiwedo to finalize the terms of the agreement. A part-time IT consultant will be hired from Teras to provide IT expertise for the Office.
- 11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)**
- 11.8 Project proposal for a new WG:  
*Working group on Method Validation Protocols*  
 This new working group was approved at the EMD Division review.
- 11.40 Request from Sergio (ETD) to hold conference on “Laboratory Medicine in monitoring the environment impact on Public Health”  
 The plans for a conference on the role of Laboratory Medicine in monitoring the environment impact on Public Health will be discussed further with Sergio, SH and DK. It was agreed to establish a new Task Force on “The Environment and Laboratory Medicine”. This will be started later in the year.
- 11.02.01 Committee on Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (C-ETPLM).  
*Membership*  
 Lianna Kyriakopoulou (CA) was approved as new Member, via email on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- The Paediatric committee has not been as active as expected, and they do not feel that they fit in the ETD Division. It was suggested that the mandate for the committee needs to be revisited and should include more than the organization of the Paediatric satellite meeting. A meeting will be arranged with KA, Sergio, Tim and SH to discuss this. The proposed neonatal bilirubin project should be a joint project with SD and EMD Paediatric committee.
- 13.03 Scholarships**  
*EML 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*  
 Two from Roche and 5 from IFCC.
- 18.00 IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)**  
 Status, board renewal, future goals.  
 KA will contact Graham Beastall for his input.
- 19.0 Meetings**
- 19.1.24 Council meeting  
 The Council meeting was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1.00 to 4.00 pm as a hybrid event. The meeting was recorded and will be available for viewing on the IFCC Website.



19.80 Executive Board Meetings 2022  
*In Person (Hybrid) meetings*

*Proposal of venues for in person EB Meetings*

- Munich (DE) – EuroMedLab: Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup>
- Seoul (KR) – WorldLab: Thursday June 30 (full day) and Friday July 1 (9am – 2pm))
- Brussels (BE) – GC: Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, 27

*Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls*  
To be planned as necessary

**16.0 Organisational Matters**

16.7 Project Proposals

*Essential IVD Accessibility*

There was a meeting with Janos Kappelmayer to discuss the problem of expensive reagents in African countries and potentially making them locally. The EB will discuss this matter further.

16.40 Other business

*New Staff*

Sofia Giardina joined the Office Staff as of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

The Registration of TO is being coordinated with the IFCC Swiss Lawyers

*Meeting with APFCB*

A lunch meeting with the APFCB is being arranged for Tuesday June 28, 2022 in Seoul. KA noted that the EB should meet with all Federation Boards, including the EFLM, when attending their Congresses.