

160th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board

June 30th- July 1st, 2022

WorldLab Congress Seoul

Minutes

Participants:

EB Members

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Alexander Haliassos	(AHA)	Treasurer – <i>connected via zoom</i>
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) <i>connected via zoom</i>
Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM)
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) <i>connected via zoom</i>
Stephen Hill	(SH)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.0 Opening remarks from President

IFCC Functional Units (Committees, TFs, WGs):

The action items from the meetings with the Divisions were communicated to the chairs, with copies to the EB. For 2023 the Annual Report information request form will be modified, asking the Chairs to also report separately any issues or concerns that need be addressed with membership, achieving deliverables, and any suggestions for improvement. This will be the basis for the annual review of the functional groups. DK will draft the new form for review by the EB in September.

Global MEDLAB Week 2022

The Global MEDLAB Week 2022 was launched at EML Munich. The one month campaign in April involved approximately 30,000 people participating from countries around the world. In particular, there was a lot of activity in South America and Asia. The program was considered a success for this first year. Going forward the program will be managed by the C-PR Committee chaired by Rajiv. There is also a marketing company that has helped get

this program going and has prepared materials, which can continue to provide assistance as needed (posters, pamphlets and videos, etc.). The EB will continue to actively support this initiative. DK will be the liaison to this group. KA and DK will meet with the entire committee to review the learnings from this year and talk about the plans for the future, which will be presented at the GC. PB will plan the meeting.

Website Redevelopment and New IT partner for IFCC

A contract for IT services, including website design and database design, has been signed with a new IT company (Digiwedo located in Rotterdam). The cost was very competitive based on the responses to the request for bids. KA and Sylvia CL, Tahir and Eduardo have met with company a few times and a new Website will be designed by the GC. Digiwedo will transfer all of the pages and documents from the existing website to the new website. They will also prepare a new template for the eNews and eJournal that will allow IFCC staff to manage these publications. The company has started to work with TF-GRID on a database for reference intervals, and will work with TF-GLQ and TF-OSLM on their databases.

Rome 2023 EuroMedLab COC and Scientific Program

KA and TO have worked with the Rome 2023 EML COC and Scientific Committee, and the program has been finalized and printed for Seoul. No cancellations were required as a parallel session was added. The keynote speaker was changed to address a potential conflict of interest. There will be a POCT satellite meeting. Abbott is also planning to have a satellite meeting for UNIVANTS which would be at no cost to IFCC. The YS Forum will be included in Rome and at every IFCC WL and EML, but it is important that different YSs have an opportunity to attend each year.

Dubai 2024 WorldLab COC and Scientific Program 26-30 May 2024

The congress website has been set up and KA and MZ have met with the Arab Federation and the Dubai organizers. The representatives for the COC and SPC need to be identified according to the WL/EML Guidelines, and KA will work with the various parties to get recommendations for EB approval. There is a genetics society in Dubai that is an Affiliate IFCC member and interested in being involved in the congress. This would provide local representation to assist in identify sponsors and in advertising the congress. Both the Saudi society and the EB support this recommendation and KA will follow up with the president of the Affiliate society, Maryam Matar. A call will also go out for a corporate member to be on the COC committee. It was noted that all Regions would also like to have more input into the IFCC congress planning process. KA expressed concern that our congresses seem to have the same speakers presenting at each meeting and efforts should be made to identify new speakers and new topics for future congresses.

IFCC General Conference and 70th Anniversary Plans

KA has met with Office and with DK and Pavi to work on the plans for the GC. The EB will arrive on Tuesday October 25, and will meet on Wednesday (October 26) and Thursday (October 27). Functional Groups will arrive on Thursday (October 27) and meet on Friday (October 28) for a half day. Board members should attend the group meetings where they are the liaison. Only the chairs of WGs are invited and if they hold a virtual meeting it has to be from their hotel room, via Zoom. The GC will be all day on Saturday (October 29) and Sunday (October 30) all day. Saturday will be special presentations and the 70 anniversary celebration. The program will include an introduction from KA and DK; the past president symposium (1 hour – 15 min each); the Regional Federation Presidents (1 hour – 15 min each), the invited guest symposium (1 hour – 30 min each from WHO, IVDR); the value of laboratory medicine symposium (20 min each for David Grenache, someone from UNVANTS, Khosrow Sorbatini); and the Industry Forum chaired by Tricia and JP. One minute videos by IFCC Opinion leaders will run all day. There will be music at the reception and at dinner. A DJ will provide music for a dance after dinner. On Sunday

(October 30) will be the EB presentations (President and Treasurer); Division presentations and new TF presentations. The presentation times will have to be determined to fit the time available.

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

No further progress due to the COVID lock down in China. Hopefully this can be discussed with them in September.

IFCC Virtual Platform

InEvent training has begun and the Office Staff are about halfway through. Hopefully, the platform can be used for the next EB virtual meeting. There are a lot of features with the application and the Office may not need all of them at this time, but they may be useful for conferences.

IFCC-JCTLM-ICHCLR Relationship/Concerns/Proposed Changes

There was a Zoom meeting and it was agreed that IFCC will pay the agreed upon annual contribution of 50,000 Euro. ICHCLR was asked not to form WGs until further discussions as they may conflict with SD activities. It was suggested that ICHCLR could fall under SD and this will be discussed further at a later date.

IFCC Conference Guidelines: WorldLab and EuroMedLab

Further clarification to the IFCC Conference Guidelines is required where there is some confusion, including: How to develop the program and what the process should be? Who to include? Who to notify? Who needs to approve the program? Etc. KA will work on a draft over the summer and submit to EB for discussion and approval. There should be an orientation meeting with the new committees, the Presidents of IFCC and EFLM, and C-CC Chair to review the guidelines with new members. Also a note should be added to the request form for WL/EML Congress bids asking applicants to confirm that they have read and understand the guidelines.

1.1.158 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of February 25th-26th-27th, 2022
The draft minutes have been circulated.

1.1.159 Minutes of the in person meeting of April 13th -14th, 2022 – Munich
The draft minutes have been circulated.

Action List from 159th EB Meetings

The Action List from the 159 EB meeting was reviewed and those matters requiring further action are addressed in the agenda.

15.00 Finances

15.2 Treasurer report: Financial statement 2021

Final year-end financial report has been completed by KPMG. PB has cross checked the data and the format, and AHA has reviewed the report. It will be signed electronically by KA and AHA.

AHA reported that IFCC actual expenses look favourable compared to budget. The book value of IFCC investments is expected to decrease this year, as all investments have, due to COVID and Ukraine war, but this is offset to some extent by increased revenue on currency exchange.

AHA will prepare a statement of actual expenses compared to budget for the next EB meeting.

a) New Task Forces:

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

The TF has been advised to move forward more quickly and now understand their mandate and are meeting more often. The plan is to start with Nigeria, South Africa, Bolivia, and members from the TF will visit each country to meet with laboratories and with local government representatives. The TF will present an update at the GC.

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

The TF-GLQ has been meeting regularly and have started the pilot with 10 countries, each with 5 labs. The TF will be meeting over the summer to analyze data from the first round of samples, and implement any necessary changes to the program. In the future, transportation costs can be reduced by distributing all samples to each lab at the same time. It was also clarified that this program is not to compete with other IFCC commercial members. Once the pilot is completed a contract will be considered for phase 2, starting in January 2023.

It may be possible to increase the final program to 200-300 labs. Transportation costs can be minimized by adding labs within countries currently in the program.

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

Call for proposals for study grants will go out the first week of July. Literature demonstrating the value of laboratory medicine is being reviewed. An expert in systematic review of literature, from Cornell University, has provided suggestions on how best to evaluate the scientific merit of the articles and the group can now begin to grade the articles found. A meeting will be arranged with the new IFCC IT provider (Digiwedo) to discuss database design.

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

The Task Force is very active, meeting almost monthly with 4 teams working on different parts of the project. The database for the Global Reference Interval Database is in development with the new IFCC IT provider (Digiwedo). An update will be provided at the GC.

13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL) – Liaison: AMLR

The TF has expressed a concern regarding a possible conflict with the AACC Learning Lab eLearning program that the IFCC has endorsed. KA will meet with the TF to address any concerns. Translation of some IFCC Webinars into French is being investigated and AMLR has found a translator. Examples have been sent to AH to check for accuracy. The cost will be the same as currently being paid for the Spanish translation. There is a meeting planned with the Francophone committee chair at the GC to discuss how this project can be linked with them.

IFCC Accreditation Program

SH reported that the set of documents for the review of course material have been prepared. A committee needs to be established to review the material and confirm that the lecture meets the required criteria to be eligible for claiming CE credit. SH will determine how soon this can be started.

There is however some urgency to accredit the upcoming IFCC conferences starting with Rome 2023. A few options will be explored: first it may be possible to have EFLM provide this service for IFCC, or contract with a third party. A meeting will be arranged with Sedif Yenice to discuss possible cooperation with the EFLM. This needs to be in place for the Rome EML Congress.

Establishment of a new Task Force on Environment and Laboratory Medicine

DK will work with KA on the mandate for this Task Force.

Specialty Congress on the laboratory and the environment.

A meeting will be organized to discuss plans for “The Laboratory and Environment” specialty conference proposed by Sergio, to be held in Rome in 2023. An EB meeting will be planned in conjunction with this conference. It was suggested that this could be a joint conference between IFCC and EFLM, who are already working on the “Green Laboratory” initiative. KA will follow up with TO and EFLM. AH, SG and DK will be involved in the planning for the meeting.

13.0 Task Forces

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

Questionnaire on residency training worldwide Lab Med/ Pathology

The survey response has been reviewed by the TF-YS and the report was presented at the YS Forum in Seoul and is available on the IFCC Webpage.

YS Forum

The EB agreed that the YS Forum will be included in all future IFCC WL and EML congresses. The Forum should be open to any YS who wishes to attend, and EB members and Division Chairs should be invited to attend. AHA will provide a budget for the YS Forum (a total of 50,000 Euros) including funding from other sources such as EFLM. The cost for Seoul will be reduced because many YSs could not come. COLABIOCLI has asked if funding can also be provided for older scientists. This is not possible with the YS scholarships but could be done with the Federation funding provided by IFCC. However, funding should not be used for the same people every year and as many individuals as possible should get the benefit. The selection process for YS scholarships should be open, transparent and fair for all, and perhaps each eligible country should nominate potential YS recipients. There should be a survey of participants from this YS Forum to assess delegate satisfaction and suggestions for further Forums. There should be greater visibility and communication from the TF-YS and their activities, particularly to all YSs. A letter will be sent to the YS Chair summarizing the EB expectations. There was a question if the TF-YS should become a committee, but it does not fit into any of the Divisions and would still have to report to the EB. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H) – Liaison: AHA

IFCC 70th anniversary history book

The IFCC 70th anniversary history book will be ready by September and distributed at the GC. Sufficient quantity will be printed for all GC delegates, plus a few extra for the office (500 copies). A box of chocolates will be given to each delegate too. AHA has designed special banners for the GC.

13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM) – Liaison JP

The TF-CM met in person on June 3rd, in Milan. There was a discussion regarding the EML congress and ways to improve the congress, which were later discussed with the EB executive. KA suggested that a corporate advisory board be established, made up of 5-7 representatives (standing members) from gold and platinum corporate sponsors (perhaps starting with the corporate individuals on the conference call with the EB), and open to additional corresponding members. These individuals should be the ones responsible for the planning and organizing corporate exhibitions at meetings. KA will prepare a draft plan for this group to be discussed at the next EB meeting. The TF-CM is preparing for the Industry Forum at the GC, including discussion topics, companies and potential speakers, and will have a proposal ready for August. The next TF-CM meeting is August 9. It was suggested that the TF-CM could become a committee at the end of 2023

13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19 – Liaison KA

The TF will meet at the GC.

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.2 Applications

"Belarus Society of Laboratory Medicine" as Full Member

A letter was sent to the Belarus Society informing them of the lack of a quorum on the Council vote and asking if the society wanted to continue the membership process with a call for another Council vote, but so far there has not been any response.

2.3 Possible withdrawal

KA feels we should continue to wait and not suspend membership for anyone at this time. Regional Federation representatives should continue to try to establish a contact and stay in contact with the societies that are overdue. We will review the status of overdue members next year if we are out of the pandemic.

3.0 Corporate Members

3.2 Applications

Jangsu Bioperfectus Techonologies Co.

Their application was received June 22, 2022.

Sansure Biotech Inc.

Their application was approved April 26, 2022. Numbering: 03 01 120.

Quality Academics

Their application was approved May 26, 2022. Numbering 03 01 121.

Guangzhou Wondfo Biotechnology 03 01 93

They have expressed interest in renewing their membership and it is under review.

5.0 Regional Organisations

Regional Federations updates

5.4. European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

The minutes from the EFLM EB meeting in Munich and the June meeting were received. The 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, was a success. More than 1,000 scientists and 60 speakers and session chairs participated. Task Forces and Working Groups dealing with the main topics of the conference will be created. A Task Group on Chronic Kidney Disease, and a Working Group on AI/Machine Learning were established.

5.6. African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

New Member Societies' request for official government letter

The requirement for prospective new IFCC members to provide an official letter from the government confirming that the society represents clinical chemistry in that country is a problem for new applicants and is perhaps an unreasonable expectation. DK will follow up with Rajiv as to the problem and that we can accept any official government agency documentation confirming that the society exists. DK will review the current statutes and propose changes to specifically include other laboratory medicine groups in addition to clinical chemistry. ABO noted that many Africans could not get Visas to attend the Seoul WL and thus could not hold a Federation meeting.

African Society for Laboratory Medicine.

KA noted that the African Society of Laboratory Medicine is a strong society and very active, and asked if it would be possible for them to be associated with the IFCC. PB noted that there was an MOU with the ASLM in the past when Howard Morris was President. KA will investigate if this MOU can be renewed.

COLABIOCLI

ANA reported that the current COLABIOCLI President, Dr. Alvari Jusiniano Grosz was re-elected at the national congress in Leon, and Bolivia was selected as the venue for the XXVII COLABIOCLI congress in 2026. Planning for the congress will begin in August. The Federation has provided a number of courses and e-Learning opportunities on a variety of topics. Two IFCC Webinars are planned for August and September and two more are planned for next year. It was confirmed that IFCC Webinar speakers can be other than clinical chemistry specialists, so long as they are experts in some area relating to laboratory medicine. The EB would like to hold a WL congress in one of the COLABIOCLI countries. Difficulties in doing so include problems with inconvenient travel to many potential locations in COLABIOCLI countries, and the fact that many members in that area do not speak English, the language used in IFCC congresses.

APFCB

The EB met with the APFCB EB in Seoul. The new president, Tony Badrick, will assume his term on January, 2023. At that time the APFCB Office will move from Singapore to Australia to reduce operating costs. Tony asked if the IFCC funding could be used for office operational costs or if the funds were restricted to just scholarships and education activities. Tony will submit a formal request, with a budget, to the IFCC EB.

NAFCC

The CSCC Annual Meeting was held in June in the Niagara region of Ontario and was successful. The AACC Annual Meeting will be in July, and a meeting between the IFCC and the AACC executive has been arranged. The possibility of the AACC and CSCC hosting the 2026 WorldLab will be discussed.

AFCB

The Iraq Society has joined the AFCB as a new member. Maruitania, Qatar and the Emirates may also join. A number of educational events have been organized by members in the Federation. A joint congress with the Francophone Federation is planned in Morocco for September, and Morocco will also organize the Arab Federation congress. The IFCC grant is still available from the IFCC account but has not been used.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 WHO – Liaison ABO

A meeting is being organized with WHO.

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

Punta del Este (UY) Congress, September 29th- October 2nd - in person

IFCC Symposium on “Value and Impact of Clinical Laboratories in Public Health and Patient Care Delivery”.

The IFCC speakers need to register for the meeting and provide an abstract, biography, photo and travel details to AMLR to coordinate with the meeting organizers. A meeting will be arranged with the WASPaLM executive.

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

A call for nomination will go out to add two new members to the committee. PB will check on status of the call.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2022, Seoul (KR)

June 26-30, 2022

WorldLab 2022/APFCB 2022 joint Congress

This was a successful meeting, particularly considering the lingering impact of COVID, resulting in almost no delegates from China. The final attendance was 1300 delegates and over 1000 exhibitors plus guests.

7.2.25 IFCC WorldLab 2023, Rome (IT)

May 21 - 25, 2023

The COC met in March and has also met with all sponsors. There will be a site visit to the congress centre and new hotel at the congress centre. The scientific program has been revised to address concerns. Satellite meetings will be organized on POCT and Pediatrics, UNIVANTS, and a YS Forum. A symposium will be organized including presentations from each of the new task forces to report on their activities; 5 sessions at 30 minutes each.

7.40 Other Business

The call for bids for WorldLab 2026 will go out in September/October.

7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE), April 10th-14th, 2022

Report on Congress

The EML Munich congress was a successful meeting with a good scientific program, and good attendance from delegates and exhibitors. A healthy profit is expected.

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry – COLABIOCLI

The next COLABIOCLI congress will be in Cartagena, Columbia and then in Bolivia.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD) – Liaison: JP

8.13 BIPM/JCTLM annual contribution/invoice – KA update

JCTLM database proposal

A letter to IFCC Corporate Members inviting them to contribute funding for the JCTLM database development will be sent soon.

8.2.26 Harmonization of Autoimmune Tests (C-HAT)

Proposal to close C and form a new WG

The request to close the C-HAT and form a new WG was approved by the EB. PB will send an email informing Philippe and Christa.

8.3.42 Standardisation of Insulin Assays (WG-SIA) - in collaboration with ADA/EASD

The EB approved request to continue WG-SIA with the new chair. PB will send an email informing Philippe and Christa.

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

9.2.10 IFCC-AACC Pearls project (previous: Committee on distance learning (C-DL))

Rosa has contacted Nadir and he will fund the translation of 12 more of the AACC Pearls into Spanish. PB will issue an invoice for the funding and Rosa will contact the AACC to coordinate with them.

9.4. Special Projects

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

KA will follow up on funding for the VLP in the future.

The expanded opportunity for VLPs has been advertised to IFCC members in the eNews.

9.40 Other

Document Cloud storage - DK update

The new IT provider (Digiwedo) will be able to provide discrete data storage for each IFCC functional group to store and share documents in a secure database. The feature will be tested with a few groups and then rolled out to all functional groups.

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) – liaison SH

Maurizio provided a brief description of a proposed project. A contest to create cost effective laboratory testing based on the WHO Essential Test list, at a cost of \$10.00. The contest would be open to everyone and the 3 best submissions, as chosen by a panel of scientists and potential investors, would be presented at the 2024 Rome meeting. The EB had some questions, and more information will be required before a decision can be made.

12.00 IFCC Awards

WL Seoul, June 2022

The next scheduled opportunity for IFCC Awards will be 2024 in Dubai. KA asked if awards should be presented annually at both the WL and EML congresses, dividing up the existing awards and perhaps adding new ones. This will be discussed further at the next EB meeting.

13.00 Special Projects

13.2. IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP)

The call for laboratories interested in hosting Professional Exchange individuals was issued and a list will be compiled by the end of summer. A call for individuals wanting to apply for PEP will be issued initially in September and twice a year, thereafter.

18.0 IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)

Status, board renewal, future goals

Deferred to the next EB meeting.

19.0 Meetings

19.1.24 Council meeting

DK will draft the minutes from the Council meeting at WL.

19.6.00 General Conference

Dates: October 27th -31st, 2022

KA will send the invitations to speakers for the GC, by the end of July. The agenda will be finalized by the end of July

19.80 Executive Board Meetings 2022 – in person

Proposal of venues for in person EB Meetings:

- Munich (DE) – EuroMedLab: Wednesday April 13th and Thursday, 14th
- Seoul (KR) – WorldLab: Thursday, June 30th and July 1st
- GC - Brussels (BE) – Wednesday, October 26th and Thursday, 27th
Friday 28th, EB participation to functional units' closed meetings (to be planned)

Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls

A virtual meeting will be scheduled prior to the General Council meeting.

16.0 Organizational Matters

16.7 Project Proposals

Potential new working groups on:

Essential IVD Accessibility

One option is to organize a working group with Jaris Delange as the chair. KA will contact Jaris to ask for a detailed proposal and plan of action.

16.40 Other business

Registration of TO with Swiss Lawyers

This has been completed.

APFCB representative

EH will continue as the temporary EB representative, in lieu of Sunil, until Tony Badrick becomes the APFCB President in January 2023.