

Meeting of the 136th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board, November 8-9, 2018

Minutes

The 136th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in Budapest, Hungary at the Novotel Budapest City & Budapest Congress Center

Participants:

EB Members

Howard Morris	(HM)	President
Maurizio Ferrari	(MF)	Past-President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	Treasurer
Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporates Representative (Roche)

IFCC Regional Federation Representatives

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)
Sverre Sandberg	(SSA)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM)
Rosa Sierra-Amor	(RSA)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Ann Gronowski	(AG)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1.134 Minutes of 135th EB Meeting, Rome, Italy, July 5-6, 2018

The EB previously approved the Full Minutes from the 135th Meeting by email. The Full Minutes and the Summary Minutes were distributed.

Action List from 135th EB Meeting:

The Action List from the 135th EB Meeting was reviewed and outstanding issues identified and allocated to EB members.

Quotes from Directors Liability insurance companies were reviewed and the offers were distributed to EB members for review. A decision will be made after feedback is received.

Strategic Plan:

The strategic actions and the individuals and functional groups responsible were reviewed and modified as below.

Area A: Supporting our Membership

No.	Strategic Action	
1	a) Integration of educational programs b) Continue to publicize educational resources available from IFCC c) Work with National Members and Federations to make better use of the educational resources available from IFCC d) Continue to promote communication between National Members and Federations and coordinate activities. e) Continue to develop and present a series of webinars to meet the needs of Members.	HM / CPD HM / CPD EB, Reg Fed Reps, NS representatives EB, Reg Fed Reps, NS representatives HM / CPD
2	a) Maintain and improve communication with COLABIOCLI and Members in Latin America, as required. b) Maintain and improve communication with AFCB and Members in Arab countries, as required. c) Maintain and improve communication with AFCC and Members in African countries, as required. d) Maintain and improve communication with EFLM and Members in the European countries, as required. e) Maintain and improve communication with APFCB and Members in the Asia-Pacific countries, as required. f) Maintain and improve communication with NAFCC and Members in the North American countries, as required.	RSA / COLABIOCLI AH / AFCB AO / AFCC SSA / EFLM SSE / APFCB AG / NAFCC.
3	Conduct a survey of Young Scientists, sex, geography and corporate membership active in IFCC functional groups, and develop a plan to address any disparities.	DK / CPD
4	Establish a Task Force, chaired and made up of Corporate Members, to identify and prioritize their needs, and possible projects, along with recommended membership. Assign to appropriate Division.	HM / RH / Corp Mem reps within Divisions/ Divisional Exec Cttee's EC.
5	Promote to Corporate Members the use of the IFCC Registry of Experts.	RH / Corp Mem reps within Divisions

Area B: Broadening Our Horizons

No	Strategic Action	
6	To translate the principles of metrology to one new project each year in areas of laboratory medicine other than clinical chemistry.	HM / P Gillery, SD
7	Establish at least one new collaboration each year with an international clinical organisation. An international scientific association, the European Society for Clinical Cell Analysis (ESCCA, President Anna Konstanti), is interested to join IFCC.	SD to identify projects and relevant clinical organizations and send EB their priorities. EB will then help to contact clinical organizations.
8	Invite organisations from outside laboratory medicine to contribute to the IFCC meetings to promote better interaction with healthcare professionals.	HM / RH
9	Reach out to LIS vendors to collaborate on symposia presentations and development guidelines and standards of practice. Identify possible projects to standardize and harmonize post analytical LIS processes. Encourage IFCC Corporate membership.	SSE / Robert Flatman
10	Explore the use of electronic meetings by IFCC functional groups. CPD to Investigate suitable technologies	HM / CPD.

11	Explore the potential evolution of congress format to include electronic participation.	HM, JW, C-CC.
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Area C: Improving the Quality of Laboratory Medicine

No.	Strategic Action	
12	In conjunction with others develop a route to laboratory accreditation for developing countries	HM / EMD, DQCLM / ASLM.
13a	Promote research demonstrating value of laboratory medicine.	HM / EMD (C-VPLM).
13b	Leverage research in 13a to promote awareness of the IFCC and the value of lab medicine.	DK/CPD
14	Strengthen the links and collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)	SSA / HM

Area D: Improving the Effectiveness of IFCC

No.	Strategic Action	
15	Performance evaluation of functional units including EB including holding annual meetings with Division Chairs	DK, SSA and RH
16	Develop a new fee structure and implementation plan for Affiliate members	MF, TO
17	Review and revise Strategic Plan mid-year 2019	HM and EB

2.0 Full Member Societies

2.3 Withdrawal – Suspended Members:

Peru's membership will be cancelled.

2.4 Annual Dues for Full Members:

Efforts will be made to contact Sudan, Iran, and China regarding outstanding dues.

It was confirmed that individuals in countries who have not paid dues are rarely or not using the IFCC Website resources. No further action will be taken on this.

2.40 Other Business:

General Conference survey responses:

The responses to the survey of NS and Corporate members prior to the GC was reviewed and will be presented at the GC. The responses will be compared to the Strategic Plan to see if all items are being addressed. To be reviewed at next EB meeting (2-4 February, Tunisia).

3.0 Corporate Members

RH will meet with Corporate Members to identify a Chair, Terms of Reference and a Budget for the new TF-Corp.

3.4 Annual Dues for Corporate Members:

Additional efforts will be made to contact the companies that are outstanding in dues.

4.0 Affiliate Members

4.2 Application for Affiliate Membership:

Discussion is underway with CAP regarding some affiliation with IFCC.

4.4 Annual Dues for Affiliate Members:

It was agreed to calculate dues for Affiliate members on the basis of number of society/organization members, as it is done for Full Members. A 50% discount will be applied. Final approval must come from Council, via an electronic vote. The change is expected to be introduced in 2020.

5.0 Regional Organisations

Reports from the Federation representatives were deferred to the General Conference. SSA raised a concern from the EFLM with respect to the abundance of world conferences/congresses and how to ensure that opportunities to hold conferences are

distributed fairly. He also stressed the importance of the new ETD communicating with the EFLM and other Federations to avoid duplication of efforts and possible conflicts. It was agreed that the new composition of the EB is an important vehicle for the communication of any concerns.

5.40 Other business:

It was recognized that delegates from many countries cannot attend large WorldLab meetings in “developed” countries, even with scholarships. Solutions to provide educational opportunities may include more electronic educational events, more regional congresses in conjunction with VLPs. However, it was also noted that successful large meetings, such as WorldLab, are also important for IFCC members and provide funding for IFCC programs.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.22 Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM):

There was a request for an MOU between BIPM and IFCC. The IFCC does have activities with BIPM involving functional groups (JCTLM) and the IFCC could participate more actively, including attendance at BIPM CCQM meetings. Decisions at CCQM should be made with representation from SD. HM will work on an MOU.

6.50 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC):

The current MOU has come to an end and there is a desire to renew it and extend from 3 to 5 years. To provide more IFCC participation in ILAC meetings RSA will represent the EB to review meetings and suggest participation.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.1 Congresses and Conferences Committee:

A request was received from Dr Ghassan Shannan to reduce registration fees for developing countries with low and low to middle income. HM will respond to Dr. Shannon.

We will continue to provide auspices to non-IFCC organizations when it benefits our members.

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

A request was received from WASPaLM to have joint WorldLab. However, this is not possible due to agreements in place with other partners for WorldLab meetings. HM will reply.

7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR), Seoul, May 24-28, 2020:

The EB will sponsor a symposium on, “Use of Big Data to improve Health”. MF and RH to determine specifics in the next 4 weeks and share the proposal with the EB.

7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

7.3.1.15 Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - APFCB
APFCB India, 2019, Jaipur – Rajasthan, 17-20 November 2019:

EB will present a Workshop entitled “Liquid Profiling in the Clinical Laboratory”, including MF, TO and Michael Neumaier.

7.3.2.24 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - EFLM
EuroMedLab 2019, Barcelona (ES), Barcelona, May 19-23, 2019:

MF reported that plans are in place and all is going well. Sponsorship and vendor participation is good. The EB will meet on May 19th with Leslie Lai to review EMD activities, and continue the EB business meeting on May 24 until noon on May 25.

7.3.4.24 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry - COLABIOCLI
COLABIOCLI Panama, 2019, Panama, September 11-13, 2019

IFCC will be involved in presentations and the EB will have specific presentations (MF, HM and RSA).

7.3.6.15 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology – AFCB Congress in Lebanon 2021.

7.3.7.5 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) Congress. Congress in Morocco
Marrakesh 26-29 Sept 2019.

7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences:

A request to hold a 2nd Mediterranean Conference has been received and was reviewed by the steering committee set up to address this issue. Following the EB meeting but during the GC, a meeting was held with EFLM, AFCB and IFCC, with participation of the organisers of the 1st Med. Conf. A report and recommendation will be forwarded to the EB for discussion at the February meeting.

7.8 Congresses with IFCC Auspices:

Mexico and others have expressed concern regarding the use of the IFCC logo without asking for auspices. HM and RSA will investigate this matter further.

7.9.13 IFCC General Conference:

A manual count will be taken to assess attendance at each of the GC sessions.

7.40 Other Business:

An article on “Predatory Conferences” was prepared by HM and MF for submission to the IFCC e-News. The EB endorsed the document and suggested possible submission to the AACC, and posting on the IFCC Website.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.1 SD Executive Committee:

A request was received from the SD to include a young scientist (YS) on SD-EC, and dedicated funding to do so. The EB decided that all Committees will fill the next vacant position with a YS and will retain at least one YS going forward. This will not apply to Division ECs and will not apply to Working Groups. However, YS membership in WGs is encouraged where possible. An IFCC YS is an individual who is less than 40 years old. This policy will become effective Jan 1, 2019.

8.3 SD Working Groups:

Concern was raised that National Societies are not asked to endorse WG membership. It is noted from the Procedure Manual 3.3.3.4 *Members of WGs need not necessarily be members of IFCC Member Societies or IFCC Corporate Members (although this is to be encouraged), but must be experts in the topic.*

8.13 Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM):

The EB approved Ian Young as JCTLM Chair.

8.13.2 WG 2: Reference Laboratories:

The JCGM-VIM rep is Gunnar Nordin. The JCGM-GUM rep is Dr Graham White.

8.16 International Consortium for Harmonization of Clinical Laboratory Results (ICHCLR):

The EB agreed that the charge for IFCC Head Office administrative support as agreed in the MOU is reasonable.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.1 Division Executive Committee:

The EB approved the following appointments to the EMD functional groups: Adil Khan as new Chair for C-POCT; Flavio Alcantara for second term as Chair for C-CKD; Garry John for second term as Chair for C-EUBD and Cynthia Bowman for a one year extension as Chair for WG-GMECC. The following individuals were approved as members for a second term: Qing Meng, C-AQ; Ed Randell, C-CLM; Aye Aye Khine Wamono, C-CLM; Emma English, C-EUBD; Rajiv Erasmus, C-EUBC; David Sacks, C-EUBD and Cas Weycamp, C-EUBD. DK will advise Leslie Lai.

It was noted that the WG-PS has completed all activities in its mandate and the WG is now disbanded.

9.2.16 Committee on Value Proposition for Laboratory Medicine (C-VPLM):

A contract has been signed by HM to support the UNIVANTS project, sponsored by Abbott. A number of other laboratory medicine associations and healthcare industry providers are partners in the project. The project will involve an international competition to identify the winning initiative (relative to some best practice) that involves lab medicine plus other departments. This is not an IFCC Award. After considerable discussion it was agreed that participation is not contrary to any IFCC or MedTech ethical guidelines. IFCC has agreed to advertise the award, participate in the selection and feature the winner on the IFCC Website.

HM distributed the information on the program to the EB. Paola to distribute the actual signed agreement to the EB. Supported by EB.

10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

10.1 CPD Executive Committee:

The EB approved the CPD-EC recommendations for a call for nominations for the C-PR Chair, a C-PR Member, and a C-IDL Member.

It was also noted by the EB that translations of IFCC articles may require permission from the copyright holder, as well as other procedures. RSA will investigate further.

11.00 Emerging Technology Division (ETD)

11.1 Update on ETD progress:

A number of candidates have been nominated by National Societies for positions on C-Emerging Technologies in Paediatric Laboratory Medicine, C-Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine, and C-Omics Translation. Decisions will be made soon and the EB will confirm the final selections.

It was agreed that the ETD-EC will develop terms of reference, goals and objectives for the new WGs and then submit to the EB for approval prior to establishing the WGs. There was agreement that the Chair ETD should discuss with the Chair EFLM Scientific Committee to avoid duplication of activities.

The ETD has been invited by Mindray to participate in a Workshop in China in October, 2019. It was agreed that more information to define the nature of the organization of the activity of the Workshop as well as the nature of activities around the Workshop was required before a decision to participate could be taken.

12.0 IFCC Awards

HM will continue to finalize the rewording of contracts with Awards sponsors with respect to naming of Awards and terms of reference.

12.1 The membership of the Awards Committee consists of:

Name	Position	Country
M. Ferrari	Chair	IT
A. Gronowski	Member	US
C. Haddad	Member	LB
E. Hoyaranda	Member	ID
T. Pillay	Member	ZA
G. Russomando	Member	PY
T. Zima	Member	CZ

13.0 Special Projects and Task Forces

13.1.01 Task Force on Ethics (TF-Ethics):

TF-Ethics met in Budapest. AG reported that the TF intends to focus on IFCC member needs. They intend to prepare a tool box with examples of documents that members can use, addressing such issues as "Conflict of Interest" and "Confidentiality". Material for publication in articles, in e-News and presentation at meetings will be prepared. They will also address the EB request for ethics training for IFCC Functional Groups.

13.1.12 Special Project on History:

HM will write to PW for his advice regarding the outstanding issues and the resources required for the Special Project on History of IFCC.

15.0 Financial Matters

15.3 Treasurers report - Income and Expenditure:

TO presented a detailed report to the EB and the GC. The year-to-date financial situation is favourable to budget and no issues were presented, however it was noted that many expenses have not been realized as yet. Our current external auditor, John Gates, is retiring and a new auditor has been identified

15.40 Other Business:

The EB agreed that all Travel expense reimbursement will be according to the Travel Policy, unless approved by the Treasurer, in advance whenever possible.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.3 Nominations Committee – Membership:

Graham Beastall will Chair the Nominations Committee and each Federation will select a representative to sit on the committee, plus Past President and Past Chair.

16.6 Procedures Manual:

This will be a priority for 2019. HM will send the Manual to all EB members for their review and send their comments to DK. There was general agreement that Officers should read and sign off that they will act in accordance with the Procedures Manual, and sign a conflict of interest statement.

16.40 Other business:

DK will continue to monitor this issue and determine if there is any further action that needs to take to be in compliance.

19.0 Meetings

19.1 Council Meetings

19.1.24 Seoul, 2020

19.6 General Conference

19.6.14 Budapest, 2018

19.80 Executive Board Meetings

2019 meetings

Tunisia, 2-4 February 2019

The EB meeting February 2-3, 2019 will be held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in conjunction with the STBC Congress February 1, 2019.

Barcelona, 19, 24, 25 (am only) May, 2019

Jaipur, 21-23 November 2019 (after APFCB Congress: 17-20 Nov)

Meetings with Divisions' Chairs:

February 2nd – Tunisia: SD – Philippe Gillery

May 19th – Barcelona: EMD – Leslie Lai

November 20 – Jaipur: CPD and ETD – to be determined