

152nd Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board April 28th, 2021

Minutes

The 152nd 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)
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)
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)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.0 Opening remarks from President

Final IFCC Conference Schedule (2021-2030)

WorldLab and EuroMedLab Guidelines

The proposed schedule for WorldLab and EuroMedLab congresses in alternate years was shared with Paivi and the C-CC, and a meeting will be held with Paivi to discuss the new schedule and congress guidelines that would apply to both WorldLab and EuroMedLab.

The goal of the new schedule and of the revised guidelines is to provide clarity for everyone regarding future IFCC events and allow IFCC administration, members, regions, sponsors and the PCO to plan ahead, and to treat everyone fairly. The regions will have the option to participate in the WorldLab congresses, and hopefully this will facilitate more successful meetings for all. Regions should also be allowed to hold their own regional meetings that do not compete with WorldLab; and regions should be allowed to hold joint meetings with other regions, but IFCC should have the option to participate as well. KA mentioned the new meeting schedule in the upcoming eNews but a formal announcement will be made after further discussions with EFLM regarding the EuroMedLab congress. The EB supported this proposal. KA will also discuss the proposed changes with MZ.

IFCC Annual Town hall Meetings

Town hall meetings will begin in September, 2021 and will be organized into 3 groups, North/Central/South America; Europe/Africa/Middle East; and the Asia/Pacific members, plus a separate one for Corporate members. This will be an opportunity to introduce the EB members and to get feedback and suggestions directly from individual national society members and regional federations. There will still be a lot of attendees, but the WorldCast platform should be capable of handling the large numbers of attendees.

Annual Survey of Members

The IFCC will survey all national society members annually. KA, DK, PB, Silvia CL will work on an IFCC annual survey for the summer. There will also be an annual survey of all corporate members.

IFCC Conference Tax Status

A meeting was held with the IFCC Swiss lawyer and a German lawyer specializing in taxation. It was confirmed that the IFCC does not need to pay any income tax but will need to pay VAT in EU countries and will be able to be reimbursed for at least part of the VAT paid. Certain applications/forms need to be filed which the IFCC may do via the PCO, or an accounting company.

Appointment of an Accounting Firm for IFCC

KA has received information and quotations (estimated 10-20,000 euros) from 3 international accounting companies with offices in Milan (KPMG, Deloitte and PwC) to provide services for IFCC. A meeting will be organized with KA, AHA, DK and PB to choose a company who will then review the IFCC operations with the IFCC Office staff and make recommendations to receive financial transactions for review and reporting.

- 1.1.150 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of February 24th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.151 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of March 31st, 2021
The draft minutes will be circulated

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the New Strategic Plan

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

The survey to identify prospective countries to work with has not gone out yet. KA will get an update for the next meeting. The CDC is interested in this area and expressed an interest in being a partner. A representative from the CDC will be added to the TF. SH will be the liaison to TF-NBS

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

This TF has been very active. Ten countries have been identified for the initial pilot program involving 5 labs per country (Malawi, Zambia, Bosnia, Georgia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bolivia, Columbia, Peru), and letters of invitation have been issued. Five bids have been received in response to the RFP for an EQA/IQC industry partner. The test menu of 25 tests (8 immunoassays and 17 chemistry) has been defined. The plan is to start the pilot in the summer.
SSE will be the liaison to TF-GLQ

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

DK and KA will draft the call for nominations for the TF-OSLM for the next meeting.
EB liaison to be determined

- 13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals consortium (TF-GRIDLC)**
Global Reference Interval Database
 KA met with Insoft and the database design is now moving forward.
EB liaison to be determined
- 13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)**
 25 Proposals have been received for 2021 webinars/virtual or practical workshops. The next webinar (on laboratory quality) will be on May 10. The goal is to provide 2 webinars per month.
 Sponsorship from Nader Rifai/Boston Children Hospital Foundation (\$15,000 USD per year) and from Siemens (50,000 euros per year) is confirmed for 3 years. The funds will be used not just for webinars but also for courses and other e-Learning activities.
IFCC eLearning Accreditation Program
 SH and DK will work on a plan for an IFCC eLearning accreditation program. The IFCC Office will provide the necessary support for the program but other resources may be required.
 AMLR will be the liaison to the TF-GEL.
- 13.0 Task Forces**
- 13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)**
 AMS will be the liaison to the TF-E
- 13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS)**
 There will be a TF-YS session at the EuroMedLab congress in Munich.
 AHA will be the liaison to the TF-YS
- 13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H)**
 AHA will be the liaison to the TF-H
- 13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)**
 The TF-CM has drafted a survey for Corporate Members that could be released in the next few months, and the TF-CM will be responsible for an annual survey going forward. One suggestion was to release the survey with the annual invoice to Corporate members. JP asked the EB to review the survey questions and provide comments.
 JP will be the liaison to the TF-CM
- 13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19**
 A new guideline on antigen testing was completed and just published in CCM. A guideline on immunization will be prepared in the future.
 KA will be the liaison to the TF-COVID.
- 2.0 Full Member Societies**
- 2.2 Applications**
Libyan Association of Clinical Pathology LACP
 The Council e-vote on LACP membership will occur from April 15th-May 15, 2021.
- 2.4 Annual Dues**
 Update 2020 dues
Sudanese Society of Clinical Biology, outstanding dues payment
 The EB is reluctant to cancel membership during difficult financial times, and KA is hoping that we can make contact with someone in the society to understand their situation. AH has emailed Jordan and Sudan with no resolution, and AH will try other contacts including the current President. AH will also try to find a group to sponsor the Sudanese society.

ABO will also see if he can contact someone. The TF-YS may also be able to suggest a contact in the society. KA suggested that the region may use some of the increased Federation funds to pay the Sudanese dues. KA also suggests that we may consider a new “Inactive” membership category with no fees and no rights when dues are not paid. The issue of sponsorship for countries that cannot afford to pay their dues will be discussed at the Council meeting.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 WHO

ABO commented that the recent WHO meeting was a good meeting, and they are looking for areas of common interest. ABO and KA will draft a report to WHO. PB will send previous WHO reports from IFCC to KA and ABO. ABO will be the liaison to the WHO.

6.2 CLSI

Agreement renewal

The 2 year agreement with CLSI is signed. All EB members will have access to CLSI documents at no charge.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

AH will be the liaison to the C-CC.

7.3.2.25 EuroMedLab 2021, Munich (DE)

Munich, November 28 – December 2, 2021

DGKL Annual meeting 2021

We have received a response from DGKL and they have postponed their annual meeting to 2022.

Guidelines for preparation of the scientific program for EuroMedLab Congress

PB will attempt to find this document so we can determine if it is still relevant.

EFLM proposal for future EuroMedLab conferences

A meeting will be held between EFLM and IFCC to discuss future EuroMedLab conferences.

Proposal for TV Channel

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

7.3.4.25 Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry -COLABIOCLI

COLABIOCLI León – Guanajuato, Mexico, 2022

March 30 – April 2, 2022

AMLR reported that the organizing committee continues to work on the program and updates are posted in the congress website, that will be translated into English soon.

There is a plan to meet with IVD industry by Zoom soon. The EB will meet during the Congress and after but not before. AMLR will provide information on the best airport to use to travel to the congress.

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

JP will be the liaison to the SD.

8.13 BIMP/JCTLM annual contribution/invoice

KA/AH update on Robert Wielgosz feedback

There has been no response at this time.

- 8.20 Membership
EB liaison to C-NPU to replace Graham Beasall
This item was deferred.
SD liaison to CLSI; and CLSI-C-RIDL collaboration
This item was deferred.
- 8.2.11. Committee on Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)
Member approval, following call for nomination
This item will be address via email.
- 8.2.23. Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM)
Member approval
This item will be addressed via email.
- 8.2.25. Committee on Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (C-STFT)
Member approval
This item will be addressed via email.
- 8.3.61 Working Group “Development of a Reference Measurement System PT/INR Standardization” (WG-PT-INR)
The MoU with SSC/ISTH has been signed by KA and is waiting for ISTH signatures.
- 9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)**
DK will be the liaison to the EMD.
- 9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)
EMD proposal to conduct VLP as IFCC-Abbott symposia/workshops as webinars
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)**
KA will be the liaison to the CPD.
Lab Week celebration plans
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)**
SH will be the liaison to the ETD.
- 11.2.1 Committee on Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (C-ETPLM)
Member approval
This item will be addressed via email.
- ICPLM Satellite Conference in May 2021*
The conference is postponed to November 2021 as a satellite to EuroMedLab.
A webinar series will be presented during spring and summer 2021.
- 11.40 Other
Partnership Agreement for HIMSS Partners Innovation Exchange (HIMSS PIE initiative).
This collaboration was approved and is awaiting final signature.

- 12.00 IFCC Awards**
12.1 Awards Committee Membership
Deferred to the next EB meeting
- 13.03 Scholarships**
Decision about postponement to EuroMedLab Munich / WorldLab Seoul.
In the summer, the IFCC Office will follow up on scholarships that have been awarded to confirm that successful recipients will be able to travel at the new time. Scholarships for future meetings will be announced as soon as possible with the help of C-CC and the Office.
- 15.00 Finances**
15.2 Financial Audit 2020
The audit of the Financial statement for 2020 will be available soon.
- 19.0 Meetings**
19.1.24 Council meeting
The virtual meeting was cancelled and will now be held as in-person event in conjunction with the EuroMedLab Munich congress.
19.80 Executive Board Meetings – conference calls:
- Wednesday, April 28th
- Tuesday, May 18th
- Wednesday, June 23rd
- Wednesday, July 28th
- KA and AHA may visit the Milan office at the end of June to meet with Office staff and MZ if travel is possible.
Lake Maggiore: September/October 2021, dates to be defined (2 ½ days).
KA asked if members wished to reduce the frequency of the EB meetings to every 2 months, but the general opinion was to continue monthly meetings until the summer.
- General Conference*
The General Conference will be held in the spring or fall of 2022, in Europe or perhaps Dubai. Further discussions with C-CC and EB will be held.
- 16.0 Organisational Matters**
16.1 IFCC Office
New staff member recruitment
Interviews for the position were completed and an offer was made to the successful candidate to start in June.
16.3 Nominations Committee
KA will make some suggestions for the next EB meeting.