

154th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board July 28th, 2021

Minutes

The 154th 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

EuroMedLab 2021 in Munich

MZ made a site visit to Munich and reported that the facilities are all ready for the meeting in November. There is good Corporate interest in the meeting and there have been additional requests for booths at the exhibition. Some individuals will be not be able to attend the meeting due to travel restrictions from their country or employer. There will be a virtual option for the scientific portion including some of the symposia including the main conference hall. Exhibits will be in-person only, but the companies can arrange virtual content on their own. The IFCC Council meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

Appointment and mandate of IFCC Representatives to COC of future EuroMedLab or WorldLab conferences

It is important that IFCC and EFLM appointees on the WorldLab and EuroMedLab COCs represent the opinions and decisions of their respective Executive Boards and not the individual's personal views. In order to ensure appropriate discussion and feedback from the EBs on important issues, it is suggested that current IFCC and EFLM Presidents (or President Elects) have a standing position on the WL and EML COCs. The EB supported this recommendation. The EFLM will be asked to provide their input into this recommendation.

Updates to EuroMedLab and WorldLab guidelines and Development of a uniform conference guideline (through C-CC)

Päivi and the C-CC, with the help of Silvia Cardinale, are working to update the WL and EML guidelines. They will be individual documents but they will be harmonized wherever possible. The EFLM will have input into the EML guideline. The WL guideline is a priority so that the request for National Society bids to host the 2024 meeting can go out as soon as possible (late August or September). The bid may include participation of the Region, if they wish to be involved. All organizations involved (NS, Federation, IFCC) will be represented on the COC. We need to consider the process for the Federation and NS jointly bidding to host a meeting, and not all NSs are members of a Federation. The Federation Representatives to the EB should encourage their NS members to bid, with the possible exception of EFLM members, who have the EML congress. The winner of the competition to host the 2024 WL will be announced in Munich.

EFLM Regional/specialty conferences in Europe

The EFLM should be allowed to hold Regional conferences that do not compete with WorldLab. Specialty conferences, in particular, would work well. It was suggested that Corporate sponsors would not want competition between WL and other large conferences. AMS said the EFLM Board agrees. The IFCC EB supports this recommendation.

EFLM-other Federation joint events

The EFLM should be allowed to host joint meetings/events with other Federations, and this should apply to all Federations. The IFCC will be a supporting partner but will not share in the revenue. The EB supports this recommendation.

IFCC Annual Townhalls

- Hosted by IFCC Executive Board
- Regional Federation executives, National Society executives, and all scientists and lab professionals in specific regions will be invited to attend
- A 3 hour interactive and virtual session
- Short (5-10 min) presentations by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and by Regional Federation Presidents
- 2.5 hours for Q&A and Panel Discussion

Many IFCC members of National Societies cannot travel to IFCC Congress. We need other ways to reach out to individual members. Virtual congresses/meetings are one way and the interactive Town Halls are another way. Notice has gone out for the first Town Hall in European time zone, and for the Corp Members' Town Hall. The agenda will include short presentations from IFCC Board and Federation Boards and then open discussion. The Office is investigating the virtual platform that will be used (WorldCast, Zoom, other).

1) IFCC Townhall with IFCC Regions

- A 3 hour Townhall with Europe/Middle East/Africa – September 15th, 2021
- A 3 hour Townhall with Americas (North America, Central America, and South America) Oct 6, 2021.
- A 3 hour Townhall with Asia-Pacific members. Oct 20, 2021.

2) IFCC Townhall with Corporate Members on September 21nd, 2021

- TF-CM and all 49 Corporate Members invited
- 3 hours

The Corporate Townhall will include the EB members and the 49 Corporate members. Time zones will be a challenge for some Corporate members. JP suggests that an agenda will help to attract participants. KA, JP and Tricia (and perhaps others (DK and AHA) will present and then JP will moderate a discussion with participating Corporate members. All Town Halls will be recorded and available to members later.

Appointment of a New Accounting Firm for IFCC:

KPMG has been appointed as the new accounting firm for IFCC. Several meetings and email exchanges have occurred to define our needs and specify the services to be provided. Specific accounting software will be used by the IFCC Office to enter transactions, and KPMG will then review and prepare financial reports. This initiative will ensure that generally accepted good accounting practices are followed, and we will have KPMG support for other activities, if needed.

IFCC Accreditation Program

The goal is for the IFCC to become a recognized Accreditation body, especially for educational activities for developing countries, but that could be expanded to all educational activities, including WL and EML, at a later date. This would be in addition to providing Auspices for educational activities. It will be necessary to identify and establish the necessary requirements for educational activities that would satisfy professional societies granting continuing education credits to their members. SH has prepared an initial document summarizing the plan for the project. It was suggested that one member of the group to manage this activity (TF or WG to be determined) will come from the C-CC and another from the EMD. Smeralda will provide Office support. SH will work to finalize the plan.

IFCC Global Lab Week

Because the current Lab Day and Lab Week activities in North America and Europe are not celebrated by most of the IFCC members, there is a need for a Global Lab Week, organized by IFCC. Rajiv Erasmus and KA will co-chair the committee working on this, and initial members include, Endang Hoyaranda (Asia), Edwardo Freggiaro (COLABIOCLI), Bernard Gouget (Europe) and DK. Other members will be added from the Federations, National Societies, and Corporate members, particularly those with experience in PR and/or media relations. The group has started meeting and will meet every 2 weeks. Current Lab Week activities are primarily focused internally and involve laboratory staff celebrations, which is very good. However, the intent of this project is to also reach out to the general public, other health care providers, hospital administration, politicians, etc. to make them aware of the important contribution of laboratory medicine to health care. SSE suggests we contact WHO for their support, and that each Federation could suggest an outstanding lab professional to publicize, as part of a campaign. KA says it could also be a lab or a lab activity as the focus. There will be a formal announcement of the project and a call for nominations in the fall.

Enhancing collaborations with WasPALM

Deferred to next meeting

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

Deferred to next meeting

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

Deferred to next meeting

IFCC Conferences (2023-2030) - New Profit-Sharing Formula with the PCO

The IFCC board has approved this new arrangement, but discussions continue with EFLM before a new contract is signed.

Other matters

SSE noted that the EB has previously taken a position to discourage IFCC members from participating in predatory conferences, and he asked about the Medlab conference organized by Informa as a possible predatory conference. KA was invited to attend and present at the June 2021 meeting and felt the educational content was of good quality with a strong scientific program and a large exhibit, and not consistent with what might be considered a predatory conference. The matter was deferred for discussion at a later meeting.

- 1.1.152 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of April 28th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.153 Minutes of the Zoom meeting of May 18th, 2021
The draft minutes have been circulated.
- 12.1 Awards Committee**
Membership is finalized.
- 13.1.17 Task Force on Global Newborn Screening (TF-NBS) – Liaison: SH**
Update SH
The new survey of National Societies on NBS has been circulated.
- 13.1.18 Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ) – Liaison: SSE**
Development of a partnership framework for the first pilot program in 2021
The TF-GLQ has been very active. A tender went out for companies to provide the control materials and logistics. Ten countries will be involved in the project to begin in the fall.
- 13.1.19 Task Force on Outcome Studies in Lab Med (TF-OSLM)**
The call for nominations has been issued and the deadline extended to July 15th
There has been a good response to the call for nominations (13 applications received). KA and DK will review the applicants and recommend membership.
EB liaison to be identified.
- 13.1.20 Task Force Global Ref Intervals consortium (TF-GRID)**
The call for nominations has been issued and the deadline extended to July 15th
There has been a good response to the call for nominations (19 applications received). KA and DK will review the applicants and recommend membership.
EB liaison to be identified.
- 13.1.21 Task Force on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL) – Liaison: AMLR**
Update: AMLR
IFCC eLearning Accreditation Program – update
The TF-GEL has been active and number of high quality webinars are scheduled.
- 13.0 Task Forces**
- 13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E) – Liaison: AMS**
Update: AMS
AMS reported that the TF-E would like to develop a searchable database that provides a new toolkit of all the ethics resources. The database would have a collection of frequently asked questions and could also provide responses to other questions from users. Users would also be able to add new material to the database. The questions to the EB were: Does something else already exist? Who would support from Office? What is cost? Does EB support this? How would it be kept up to date? There was also concern about the value in the search option since Pub Med provides this already and perhaps better. The cost of the project would also likely be significant. The EB was not supportive of the database concept and suggested that the TF-E consider posting the information to a website that could be regularly updated. EB members have reviewed the new Code of Ethics document from the TF-E and felt that this is excellent document.
- 19.0 Meetings**
- 19.1.24 *Council meeting*
The Council meeting will be held in conjunction with the EuroMedLab meeting in Munich and will allow for on-line attendance.
- 19.6.00 *General Conference*

The GC will be over 2-3 days in April or October, 2022. The meeting will be organized by MZ Congressi. KA is working with MZ and the Office to select an appropriate location. Venues explored include: Helsinki, Frankfurt, Brussels, Milan (Rho-Fiera), Sofia, Dubrovnik, Warsaw, and Lisbon.

19.80 *Executive Board Meetings*

Executive Board Meeting – in person:

- Lake Maggiore: September 13th-14th (2 full days)
Arrival on the 12th and departure on the 14th at 4.30 pm to Milan for overnight. The first Townhall will be held in the IFCC Office on Sep 15, from 09.00-12.00.
Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate - <https://www.salutehospitalitygroup.com/en/villa-carlotta/4-star-hotel-lake-maggiore>
Milan hotel: to be defined, likely the Crowne Plaza.
Persons who cannot come to Lake Maggiore can connect by Zoom at their convenience if not for the entire meeting.

- December 1st – 2nd and 3rd (2 full days + ½ day) at EML Munich.
Persons who cannot come to Munich can connect by Zoom at their convenience if not for the entire meeting. The EB Executive can also meet separately to address some issues that can then be presented to the rest of the EB.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.1 IFCC Office

Smeralda Skenderaj has joined the Office staff as of June 1st, 2021. We will consider the need to add an additional office staff in the future.

16.3 Nominations Committee
Membership is finalized.

16.4 Annual Report 2020
e-version available at link: https://www.ifcc.org/media/478981/ifcc_2020_annual_report.pdf

16.5 Handbook 2021-2023
e-version available at link: <https://www.ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/ifcc-handbook-2021-2023/>