

165th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board

May 24 & 25, 2023

Summary Minutes

The 165th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board was held in Rome on occasion of the WorldLab/EuroMedLab Congress.

Participants

EB Members:

Khosrow Adeli	(KA)	President
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	President-elect
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	Secretary (attended remotely)
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)
Endang Hoyaranda	(EH)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)
Ana-Maria Šimundić	(AMS)	European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (EFLM) excused
Ana María Lena Rodríguez	(AMLR)	Latin-American Conf of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
Ted Dunn	(TD)	North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.0 Opening remarks from President

KA welcome those EB members in attendance to the 165 EB meeting, being held in Rome.

KA congratulated all the newly elected EB Members for the 2024-2026 term, and EH AMS as Regional Representatives for 2023. There will be many new members joining the EB for 2024-2026, and TO, KA, AHA are the only remaining EB members from the current EB. **The new members will be invited to attend the EB meeting in Prague by Zoom, for the first 3 hours on at least day one.**

Website Redevelopment

New IFCC Website was launched in mid-March and is functioning well with major improvements to functionality and cyber security, in addition to overall appearance. There has been good feedback. The e-academy website is expected to be ready in the next month or two. The e-News and e-Journal are 2 other priorities for updating over the coming weeks. New software will help to format and produce the Newsletter articles for the e-News. The database for reference intervals is progressing well and work has also started in the OSLM database. Planning is underway for an application to facilitate expense reimbursement that could be incorporated into a dashboard. Eduardo from Argentina has suggested designing a dashboard with a form for reimbursement, and other activities.

Digiwedo is getting more information on how the IFCC processes function and there will be more discussion to finalize a plan for an IFCC website dashboard.

Updates on Dubai 2024 WorldLab COC and Scientific Congress Committee

There was a lot of interest in the Dubai congress at the IFCC booth in Rome and a successful congress is anticipated. A COC meeting is planned for Dubai in June. This IFCC congress is being hosted by the Arab Federation and the Saudi Society, in cooperation with the Dubai Genetic Society. There is an agreement in place with the Arab Federation and the Saudi Society and there will be a separate agreement drafted with Dubai Genetics Society. There is an advisory group from laboratory directors in Dubai that will also be organizing a symposia. There should be a meeting between the COC and the SPC and PB will ask Patrizia and Stefano to organize a meeting and discuss the scientific program.

Rome 2023 EuroMedLab COC update – Accreditation of Scientific Program

The conference is going very well. The workshops and lectures are full, and the exhibitors are seeing many visitors to their booths. Hopefully this will encourage vendor support at the next WL meetings in Dubai and then Brussels. 5,000 attendees in Barcelona was the last record for attendance. The Rome meeting has 11,500 total attendees (plus >1900 on line) plus daily registration, plus the on-line registrants. The factors in success are post pandemic resurgence, location, and more promotion. **It is important to analyze this for the ongoing success of future meetings.**

Plans for accreditation of future WorldLab Congresses

TO says it has been a lot of work to accredit the Rome meeting, the first for an IFCC congress. TO suggests to use the CPECS name and not EFLM name for IFCC event accreditation. For WL congresses there should be IFCC involvement on the committee and in the process. The Webinar accreditation program is in place and an overview will be prepared for the EB. TO has prepared a draft MoU for IFCC Accreditation and EB members should review this and provide comments. KA indicated that he will need more time to review the proposed document by EFLM and may make changes since IFCC will need to be directly involved in accreditation of IFCC WorldLab congresses. **PB will forward the MoU to all EB members.**

IFCC Professional Exchange Program - Results of the March 2023 Competition

There were 16 applications for PEP funding and 11 of the applications will likely be funded. Each host can only host a maximum of 2 individuals per year and there is a list of hosting labs on the IFCC Website. TO will facilitate the transfer of funds working with PB and Silvia C. The funding will cover flight plus 1500 per month for 3 months. **There will be another competition in October.**

IFCC Young Scientist Forum at Rome 2023 Congress

The Young Scientist Forum was held on Sunday and was very successful with over 200 attendees. There were approximately 245 applications for YS scholarships and the IFCC awarded 40 scholarships, 10 from Roche, 15 from EFLM, and SIBOC funded some as well. There will be a YS Forum in Dubai. KA proposes 50 IFCC scholarships for Dubai. The Arab federation will fund 1 or 2 scholarships for Dubai. Some funds from the IFCC grant could be used for scholarships. KA will approach the Saudi Society to fund some scholarships. The Dubai Genetics society will also fund some as well. Roche provides funds every 2 years and any additional funds can be used for Dubai.

IFCC-JCTLM-ICHCLR Relationship/Concerns/Proposed Changes

The relationship with JCTLM is settled and is working well. JP reported that the JCTLM had a conference and collected some revenue, which has not been possible in the past, and may affect the amount of funding from IFCC in the future. ICHCLR has been trying to form WGs, which is still a concern for the IFCC SD. JP noted that additional WGs from

ICHCLR will also be a concern for the corporate members and create confusion. KA will meet with Chrisa and Costa to discuss their concerns. If it is agreed to have joint WGs with IFCC SD and ICHCLR members, the IFCC will only fund the IFCC members.

Updated Guidelines for Preparation of the Scientific Programme for an IFCC-EFLM EuroMedlab Congress and the IFCC WorldLab Congress

The updated guidelines are now online.

EH noted that the APFCB did not receive a request to propose a symposium for the Dubai International Advisory committee. **PB and KA will follow up.**

Potential changes to IFCC Election and Membership By-Laws

KA and DK and PB have documented the changes discussed at the last EB. The membership criteria is broader than Clinical Chemistry only. The term of office in any EB position can be only 6 years maximum. The election schedule will be changed so that all positions will be elected at one time. The next step is for the Council to vote on the changes. The proposed changes will be communicated and explained to let members know about the changes ahead of the vote. The Regional Representatives can help educate and promote this to the members and bring back any concerns. The vote will be broken down into two issues (membership criteria and scheduling of the election), with notification of the vote in July and the vote in September. **PB, DK and KA will draft a letter for all members.**

New IFCC Taskforce on Environmental Impact of Lab Medicine:

Tony Badrick has been selected as the chair, plus 4 full members and a number of corresponding members. Tony and members who are in Rome will join EB at 10 -11am on Thursday to clarify Terms of Reference for task force. It will be important to clarify how this group can work with EFLM Green Lab program. **TO has proposed an MoU but this needs to be reviewed by the EB and determine how IFCC and EFLM can work together.**

Proposal for a joint IFCC-Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM) Conference on Precision Laboratory Medicine - November 10-12, 2023

The meeting in China will be postponed due to difficulties with the society getting government approval for the congress. The plan now is that a delegation of IFCC members (10-20 persons from EB, SD chairs and APFCB members) will attend the annual Chinese Society meeting in 2024. The benefit to IFCC of greater involvement of China in IFCC activities is great, as is the benefit to corporate members. The goal is to improve the relationship with Chinese societies, and perhaps convince other Chinese societies to join IFCC as affiliate members.

Global MEDLAB Week 2023

This was the second year of the Global MEDLAB Week celebration. There was a lot of activity globally, including a number of countries, and including public activities. The group should next work to be more active throughout the year, perhaps working with other groups in the IFCC such as TF-OSLM to use their material to promote the value of laboratory medicine, and hold other activities in addition to the Global MEDLAB Week. The chair (Rajiv) will be stepping down at the end of the year, as well as some other members and that may be an opportunity to inject some new ideas. **There should be a separate budget for this activity only, not part of the publication budget. AHA will work on this.**

MOU with EQALM

The MoU is drafted and waiting for comments from EB. If there no concerns it can be signed.

MOU with Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation collaboration
The agreement has been signed.

MOU with FIFBCML-Francophone Federation

The MoU is waiting for a bylaw update from FIFBCML, which will be followed by a proposed MoU from their president.

WASPaLM collaboration (WASPaLM Symposium at WorldLab 2024 in Dubai and IFCC Symposium in Sao Paulo)

KA made some suggestions for a symposium on big data for the IFCC symposium at the WASPaLM congress in Sao Paulo, and other EB members added comments. KA is checking with Christa and Sergio for suggested speakers, and AMLR also recommended a speaker. **KA will finalize the symposium next month.**

IFCC Practice Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine – Development of a Roadmap/Steering Committee

There is a meeting to discuss the IFCC Practice Guidelines project Thursday at the EB meeting. A Steering Committee has been formed to finalize the Terms of Reference. There will be a few Zoom meetings in the next months and then a call for proposals for guidelines, position papers, etc. will go out in September.

There was a meeting Thursday morning with some members from the Task Force. Guidelines could be technical, clinical, or position papers. After this meeting there will be a couple of Zoom calls to finish the planning by September with call for proposals. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee to determine if they are acceptable and should go ahead. The final guidelines will be peer reviewed and published and put on IFCC Web page. A suggestion was to have courses or training to help members in the development of guidelines. An example template could also be prepared for others to use. It may be reasonable to publish some guidelines in other languages besides English. The documents could be called “guidelines” or “recommendations” or “best practices”. KA suggested that there should be a survey of guidelines available already on any topic before working on one for IFCC. It was noted that many best practices or “guidelines” may not be applicable or possible in some developing countries. Ethics and Conflict of Interest need to be considered. Best practice Clinical Guidelines will require a lot of work and time and clinical consultation.

Functional Group Membership

There are a number of functional groups where members, including chairs, are ending their terms. It would be appropriate to change some of the chairs where groups have not been active, and some members where they have not been contributing. Others can remain for a second term. **PB will check to see what functional groups have submitted their progress reports and ask the Chairs to complete evaluations of members who are eligible for second term. Also, Committees and Task Forces should all have at least one Young Scientist member.** Changes will be determined in October.

- 1.1.162 Minutes of 162nd Meeting Brussels – October 26th-27th
The final minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.163 Minutes of 163rd Meeting December 14th
The Final minutes have been circulated.
- 1.1.164 Minutes of 164th Meeting February 27th – 28th
The minutes have been circulated to the EB for review.

Review progress with the Action Items

The Action items from previous meetings were reviewed and have been complete or are addressed elsewhere in these minutes.

15.00 Finances

15.2 2023 Budget defined

Finance Report May 2023

The 2023 Budget was defined at the end of February 2023. It is executed according to the plan. Although the EuroMedLab had much higher attendance than any previous congress, the final financial outcome (as profit for the IFCC) will be probably as expected because the expenses increased, due to the situation in Europe and the high inflation.

Credit Suisse situation has returned to normal after its acquisition by the UBS. Apparently, the risk is again at the expected levels. However, we will try to find another international, Swiss based, bank, to distribute our assets and investments and dilute the underlying risk. Considering the auditing of the accounts of our major events (EuroMedLabs and WorldLabs) that are kept by MZ events, we decided to use an international specialized company. Consequently, we asked advice from our accounting providers KPMG at Milan. They proposed us to audit according to international standard for related services. These audits are confidential, addressed only to commanding entities and are executed to the requested "depth" (and with the analogous cost) and they don't provide "assurance" but a detailed report and conclusions. We will ask quotations from major international auditing companies, including KPMG as they don't have any conflict of interest.

AHA expressed concern about the high cost of reimbursement for flights and hotels for delegates booking late, and questioned if a booking agency could provide significant savings. AHA will investigate if MZ could do this.

13.0 Task Forces

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

This TF is working on the renewal of agreement with One World Health.

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

The agreements for the study grants are being finalized with the selected project contacts. The specifications for the database to store literature reference have been revised and Digiwido has quoted a lower cost which is acceptable so the work can begin.

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

The database design for the Global Reference Intervals has been approved and Digiwido is working on it

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

IFCC eLearning Accreditation Program

Certificates of attendance are being provided for individuals attending Webinars.

IFCC Accreditation Program (Rome 2023 and Dubai 2024)

The Rome WL/EML and Dubai WL congresses will be accredited through the CPECS program. Discussions are underway to define a joint program with representation from IFCC and EFLM for accreditation of educational activities.

13.1.22 New Task Force on Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine

Tony Badrick has been selected as the chair, plus 4 full members and a number of corresponding members. Tony and members who are in Rome will join EB at 10 -11am on Thursday to clarify Terms of Reference for the task force, and in particular how this Task Force can have an impact in developing countries. Second goal is to look at what tests can

be used to measure environmental toxins in humans. It will be important to clarify how this group can work with EFLM Green Lab program. TO has proposed an MoU and this will be reviewed by the EB to determine how IFCC and EFLM can work together. The Corporate representative will be advised that he is a Full Member and not a Corresponding Member. AH will join the TF as a member in January 2024 after his term on the EB is completed. TO noted that she will be presenting on the EFLM Green Lab program at the MedTech Europe conference.

13.1.1 Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

One new member, M. Zaninotto, was approved for the 2023-2025 term in office. Nilda's second term is ending at the end of the year.

13.1.6 Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS)

Membership renewal for S. Fares Taie, G. Sancesario, C. Imperiali and I.W. Masfufa was approved on line.

13.1.12 Task Force History (TF-H)

Bernard will be asked to continue, and Mathius as well if he wishes to do so. AHA will discuss the new member suggestions with Bernard. AHA will follow up on the status of the 70th anniversary book.

13.1.15 Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)

Conference Procedural Questions as per Paivi email

The TF-CM is meeting in Rome and continue to meet monthly. The review of the corporate member survey is complete and one learning was that the congress exhibitor discount was not a major reason for joining IFCC. Major reasons were association with major clinical chemistry association, association with major clinical chemistry opinion leaders, and involvement with the SD division. A new chair for TF-CM will be needed and at least one person is interested and should advise Tricia and she needs to recommend someone to EB. It was noted that it is important that all communication go to all members, including corresponding member. Corporate members reported that the Industry Forum at GC was very well received.

JP forwarded the following questions and discussion points for the EB from the TF-CM:

1. Corporate Member's Advisory Board is only comprised of Gold and Platinum sponsors and may not be representative without having representation from other levels.
2. Gaps in communication when CM's serve as corresponding members on Cs and WGs.
3. What does the EB see as the value proposition for small companies to join the IFCC?
4. Greater visibility on collaborations with other medical and professional societies and access for CMs to participate.
5. Non-corporate members sponsoring satellite programs associated with IFCC meetings: *what are the advantages, then, of being a corporate member?*
 - o A potential solution may be that corporate members could receive a discount in conjunction with signing up for a membership.
6. Keynote speaker at the opening ceremony: how was the topic and speaker selected, observations from CMs and comments to the EB.
7. Language barrier in certain countries to fully understand the multiple communications and opportunities for CMs to participate on TFs, Cs, WGs.
8. Task Force or Committee or some other group within the IFCC on AI and its significant importance for the future.
9. IFCC Leadership to help bridge the gap with regulatory agencies worldwide to help CM's.

- 13.1.16 Task Force on COVID 19**
The Task Force has completed its mandate and will be dissolved. **A thank you letter will be sent to each member from KA.**
- 2.0 Full Member Societies**
- 2.2 Applications
Armenia: Association of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics Specialists
The Armenian Association of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics Specialists was approved as a Full Member, numbered as 02 01 112. A letter will be sent to the association to confirm the criteria for membership. This should be a standard question for all new applicants.
DK and PB to draft letter.
- Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists – ASCL*
The application for Full membership received and is being processed.
- 3.0 Corporate Members**
- 3.2 Applications
United Robotics GmbH
Membership was approved and the welcome letter will be sent.
Labor Team W AG
Membership was approved and the welcome letter will be sent.
- 3.3 Withdrawal
Megalab, JSC (GE) - 03 01 109 (outstanding since 2020, never paid dues)
Labtronic (KZ) – 03 01 106 (outstanding since 2021)
No feedback has been received by the companies above and thus their membership will be cancelled after the WL/EML Rome Congress.
- 3.4 Annual Dues
Update 2022 dues
PB will work on this.
- 3.40 Corporate Members Advisory Board
This advisory Board Includes Platinum and Gold corporate members as full members and others as corresponding members. The membership will be updated every year.
- 4.0 Affiliate Members**
- 4.2 Applications
Colegio Nacional de Químicos Clínicos en Medicina de Laboratorio, A.C. – CONQUILAB
It was clarified that this member does not replace any other society. **Membership was approved and the welcome letter will be sent.**
- 5.0 Regional Organisations**
Regional Federations updates:
New EB to consider where to go for meetings and in consideration of MoUs. One option is for some of the EB members to attend but not all.
- 5.1. Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
Dr. Endang Hoyaranda was approved by Council (APFCB Full Member Societies) as APFCB Representative at the EB until December 2023.
Request for support for secretariat activities

This request was previously approved to a maximum of 10,000 SF to relocate the APFCB office, to come out of the grant to the Federation. It will be confirmed that this is understood to be one time funding only and not for ongoing operation of the office

EH provided the following report:
Report from APFCB Congress 2024

1. Dates:
 - a. 31 October – 3 November 2024
2. Scientific Program Organising Committee:
 - a. Greg Ward
 - b. Wendy Wei Cui
 - c. Christa cobbaert
 - d. Woei-horng Fang
 - e. Sam Vasikaran
 - f. Tze Ping Loh
 - g. Robert Flatman
 - h. Dorothy Kouzios
 - i. Fred San Gil.
3. Program shell:
 - a. 4 main tracks over four days
 - b. Includes:
 - i. 4 plenary sessions
 - ii. 19 symposia,
 - iii. 3 IFCC symposia,
 - iv. 6 educational workshops
 - v. 6 industry workshops (sponsored workshops)
4. Four day program:
 - a. 31 October – AM : workshop 1-4
 - b. 31 October – PM : symposia 1-4; Opening ceremony, opening plenary, welcome reception
 - c. 1 November – AM : symposium 5-8, plenary 2, posters
 - d. 1 November – PM : Industry workshops, IFCC Symposium 1, symposium 9, Educational WS 1-2
 - e. 2 November – AM : symposium 10-13, plenary 3
 - f. 2 November – PM : poster, industry workshops, IFCC symposium 2, symposium 14, Educactional WS 3-4
 - g. 3 November – AM : symposium 15-18, plenary 4
 - h. 3 November – PM : Industry workshops, IFCC symposium 3, symposium 19, eduational WS 5-6; closing ceremony
5. Venue: Sydney Convention Center
6. Key dates:

a. Expression of interest for symposia open	August 2023
b. Call for abstracts open	October 2023
c. Early bird registration open	October 2023
d. Expression of interest for symposia close	November 2023
e. Call for abstracts close	January 2024
f. Notification to authors	May 2024
g. Draft program release	June 2024
h. Early bird close/presenters final registration	31 July 2024
i. Final program release	August 2024
7. Main Areas:
 - a. Automation and Robotics
 - b. Immunoassays and Mass Spec
 - c. Health models for collection, transport, testing
 - d. Post analytics

- e. Education
 - f. Financial realities of labs in different countries and funding models
 - g. The approach of hypertension; renal disease, diabetes
 - h. Thyroid
 - i. Paediatric service challenges
 - j. Sustainability
8. IFCC symposia chosen:
- a. Establishment of a sustainable measurement infrastructure for standardized measurement of CVD biomarkers
 - b. Evaluating molecular biomarkers In a sea of proteoforms: using next generation protein diagnostics : its time has come!
 - c. Improving wellness, emergency response, and resilience with prehospital testing

5.2. Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

AMLR provided the following report:

- 1) There is going to be a Congress in Brazil, Florianópolis from 18th to 20th June 2023. It is going to also take place the 2nd Latin American Conference of Young Laboratory Professionals. KA is going and also AMLR. There it is going to be a COLABIOLI Assembly.
- 2) There is going to be a Regional Conference in Guatemala on 21st and 22nd November 2023. KA confirmed that he received the invitation for that EVENT. KA agreed that he could give a presentation.
- 3) COLABIOCLI Congress in Colombia, Cartagena is going to be from 2nd to 6th October 2024 instead of August. KA confirmed that he received the invitation for that EVENT inviting also the EB to have an EB meeting there. Paola confirmed that IFCC received the information about the change of date. KA said that next EB will have to decide if they have EB Meeting in Sidney or in Cartagena, because both events are the same month. The country where the EB does not have a meeting may be that some of the EB members assist and give some conferences apart from the 3 speakers invited using the VLP.
- 4) COLABIOCLI would like to give some symposium in Dubai. This was discussed yesterday and COLABIOCLI will have one as the other regions. AMLR asked who would pay the tickets and hotel and KA answered that the organizers of the Congress would pay.
- 5) AMLR asked on behalf of COLABIOCLI if it is possible to use some money of the budget IFCC gives to COLABOCLI to install a COLABIOCLI office in Uruguay where it is the legal statutes and the bank account. Also asked if it is possible to receive additional support for that purpose. KA said it is not possible. The only possibility is to use for only once 10 000 SF from the budget given to COLABIOCLI. KA explained that the purpose of the budget is for education.
- 6) COLABIOCLI created a NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN and asked KA and TO to write something for the newsletter.

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

Replacement of Regional Federation Representative

Prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić (AMS) approved by Council (EFLM Full Member Societies) until December 2023, as EFLM Representative at the EB.

TO provided the following report:

EFLM Activities since the 164th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board

EFLM held its Executive Board meeting on May 21st, 2023.

The following decisions were taken at the EFLM EB meeting regarding IFCC:

Draft of a MoU between IFCC and EFLM for the activities in the area of Environmental Impact of Lab Medicine was reviewed and approved by the EFLM Executive Board members and was submitted to the IFCC for consideration.

Draft of a MoU to use CPECS for the IFCC meetings was reviewed and approved by the EFLM Executive Board members and was submitted to the IFCC for consideration.

Following the EFLM Executive Board meeting, the EFLM General Meeting, which is the governing body of EFLM consisting of the National Representatives/ Presidents of 41 EFLM member societies, was held on the same day (May 21st, 2023) between 13:00-16:30. The EFLM Elections for the new Executive Board were held at the general Meeting for the term between 2024-2025. Prof. Tomas Zima was elected as the new EFLM President-elect in 2024-2025. The current EFLM Secretary and 2 members-in-large were re-elected since they were the only candidates for the positions. For the EFLM Treasurer position, there were two candidates. One is the current Treasurer, the other one nominated by the Slovak society. The current Treasurer was re-elected for his 3rd term.

During the General Meeting, two new affiliate members were approved by the member societies. Chairs of EFLM Committees presented briefly their activities. President of IFCC, Prof. Khosrow Adeli kindly presented IFCC activities and relevant projects.

5.5. Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

KA suggested that the AFCB set up a bank account in another country in order to have secure funds and avoid what has happened in Lebanon. This will be a concern next year when the funds from the Dubai meeting are transferred to the Federation.

AH provided the following report:

On May 5, 2023, during the STBC congress, the EB of the AFCB proceeded to revise the statutes of the Federation, first drawn up in 1991 in Monastir, Tunisia. The new statutes will be in harmony with those of the IFCC and the EFLM and FIFBCML our main partners. The various Arab Societies are committed to making the Dubai 2024 Congress a success. Lebanon is a candidate for the organization of the next meeting.

EFLM/AFCB. The AFCB asks for encouragement for the acceptance of Arab biologists in the various committees, working groups and task forces.

5.6. African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

ABO provided the following report:

The Election for the AFCC EB has been conducted and Dr Mabel Charles-Davies is the new president to replace Professor Rajiv Erasmus. The tenure of the new board starts from January 2023 for 2 years. The inauguration of the new executives took place in Rome in the presence of IFCC President, Prof Adeli Khosrow, with only three newly elected members present because of logistics problem which affected members and they were therefore unable to travel to Rome. Probably not unrelated to financial situation in some countries in Africa.

Newly elected Executive Members are as follows:

President: Dr Mabel Charles-Davies (Nigeria)

Past President: Prof Rajiv Erasmus (South Africa)

Secretary: Prof Adekunle B Okesina (Nigeria)

President Elect: Akalu Gizachew (Ethiopia)

Treasurer: Hilary Lumano (Zambia)

Member at Large: Lmimouni Badre (Morocco)

Member at Large: Joseph Ahaneku (Nigeria)

The few board members present, however, deliberated on crucial issues that required immediate attention. Some young scientists were also present at the meeting as observers. Matters deliberated upon included: plan to review constitution, **AFCC regional conference coming up in Egypt in February 2024 and the plan to seek IFCC support**, Young scientist forum for African young scientists, the plan to finalise creation of AFCC secretariat

possibly in Zambia, and discussion on how to bring more members from African countries into IFCC.

The next face to face meeting of the EB of AFCC is slated for later in the year. With regards to the regional association meeting, the ACCN in Nigeria plan to have their annual conference in October from 18th to 21st 2023. Botswana, which is the most recent member to be added, held their annual conference and Professor Erasmus, the immediate past president, was able to attend physically. Funding was made available from AFCC, through the IFCC grant, to support participation of about 40 young scientists in the Botswana conference.

- 5.7 North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)
TD reported that he spoke with Shannon Hamond, AACC President, regarding the AACC name change to ADLM (which will officially start at AACC meeting in July 2023). Shannon explained that the AACC Board was unanimous in recommending the name change but had to have a rather complicated membership vote to legally do so. The CSCC Annual Congress will be held June 18-21 in Winnipeg, jointly with the CCMG (Canadian College of Medical Geneticists). TD reported that he did not receive an invitation for the NAFCC to present a symposia at the Dubai congress. KA will follow up.

6.0 International and Professional Organisations

6.1 WHO

It was planned to meet with WHO but this has not been arranged. There was some discussion with Mr Moussy at the General Conference. **ABO will follow up with Mr Moussy to arrange a meeting. Prior to a meeting, information on the TF-NBS and TF-GLQ will be sent.**

- 6.13. World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)
WASPaLM Congress
São Paulo, Brazil - September 5th to 8th, 2023
IFCC Symposium proposal: Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine through Big Data Analytics
WASPaLM is expected to present a symposia in Dubai as part of the reciprocal agreement with IFCC, where the IFCC is presenting one in South America. **KA will remind COC Dubai to invite a WASPaLM symposium.**

- 6.22. Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)
It was noted that the IFCC has a formal agreement to support JCTLM, at 50,000 Euro per year. Since they are now holding meetings and charging it was questioned if the support from IFCC can be reduced. More discussion will be required.

7.0 Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)

7.2.27 IFCC WorldLab 2026

The call for bids was issued with a deadline April 30th, 2023, however because there was only one bid (from India) and there was interest from other countries in bidding, the deadline was extended to May 31, 2023 by KA and the C-CC Chair. There was no discussion or objection from EB members.

7.3.2.26 EuroMedLab 2025. Brussels (BE)

May 18th - 22nd, 2025

There will only be one corporate representative, from Abbott, for the Brussels EML COC. **A letter will be sent to the nominator and the nominee, and also to the other nominations to advise them of the decision and to thank them for their interest.**

8.0 Scientific Division (SD)

8.2. Committees

8.3 Working Groups

Proposal for Working Group on “Standardization of fetal haemoglobin (HbF)”
After consideration of the additional information provided by Christa, the WG was approved by the EB. **DK will advise Christa.**

8.20 Membership

8.3.56 Fecal Immunochemical Testing (WG-FIT),
The Chair, C. Piggott (UK), was approved for 2 years (2023-2024).

8.3.64 Working Group on “Natriuretic Peptides” (WG-NP)

The Chair, A. Saenger (US), was approved for 3 years (2023-2025), replacing the previous Chair – A. Reid, who resigned for personal reasons.

8.40 JCTLM Task Group for knowledge transfer

The request from Christa to hire a consultant to help with JCTLM Task Group for knowledge transfer was approved by the EB as a short term solution.

9.0 Education and Management Division (EMD)

9.4.1 Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP)

The request to ABBOTT for sponsorship is ongoing

9.40 Other

Adaptive Learning Programme,

A link to the Adaptive Learning Programme has been put on the new IFCC webpage:
<https://ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/adaptive-learning-program/>

9.20 Membership

9.2.13 Committee on Kidney Disease (C-KD)

Two members were approved: Rajeeva Selvaratnam (CA) and Takashi Wada (JP), time in office 2023-2025.

9.2.14 Committee on Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)

One member was approved: Nichole L. Korpi-Steiner (US), time in office 2023-2025

10.0 Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

The Chair and 2 other members are finishing their terms. **It will be confirmed if Kushbu Patal will continue as a member and then a call for nominations will be issued.**

10.02 Committees

10.02.02 Committee on “Internet and Digital Communications (C-IDC)”

The Chair, Eduardo, is ending his term. **A call for nomination for a new member will be issued and the Chair can be chosen after the new member is identified.**

E-Journal Editor in Chief

A new editor for the E-Journal is required and a call for nominations will be issued.

10.20 Membership

10.02.01 Committee on Public Relations (C-PR)

One member, Maria Eugenia Schroeder Castagno (UY), was approved for 1st term (2023-2025).

10.9. Public Relations

10.9.2. IFCC Booth at AACC-Anaheim (CA,US) July 2023.
The IFCC booth at the AACC meeting was confirmed.

11.00 Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

TD will replace Steven Hill as the liaison to ETD.

11.3 Working Groups

New Working Group proposal: "The Health Technologies Assessment (HTA) Core Model for Laboratory Medicine" WG-HTA

The EB approved this new Working Group.

11.40 Request from Sergio (ETD) to hold conference on "Laboratory Medicine in monitoring the environment impact on Public Health"

It was suggested that Sergio work with the new TF on organizing this conference.

Request from Maurizio and Damien (ETD) to initiate an award program on technology aiming at affordable laboratory tests for all.

This item is on hold pending additional information.

12.00 IFCC Awards

WL Rome 2023 and Dubai 2024

Proposal for Awards' distribution and sponsorship update:

12.1.1. IFCC Howard Morris Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award - sponsored by *Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd.* – **Dubai (support received)**

12.1.2. IFCC Distinguished International Service Award (1981-1987), since 1990 IFCC Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service - sponsored by *Siemens* – **Rome – support to be received**

12.1.3. IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education – sponsored by *Abbott Diagnostics* – **Rome – (support received)**

12.1.4. IFCC Abbott Award for Significant Contributions to Molecular Diagnostics - sponsored by *Abbott Molecular* - **Dubai – (support received)**

12.1.5. Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (ex-Sekisui) – **Dubai** – call for sponsorship issued. **Support is pending and KA will follow up.**

12.1.6. IFCC Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine - sponsored by *NIST* and *CLSI* – **Rome (support received)**

12.1.7. IFCC Young Investigator Award – sponsored by *SNIBE* - **Rome (support received)**

12.1.8. IFCC Distinguished Award for Contributions to Cardiovascular Diagnostics - sponsored by *Hytest* – **Dubai (agreement on going)**

12.1.9. Gérard Siest-Biologie Prospective Award - sponsored by *Biologie Prospective* – **Dubai (support received)**

12.1.10 IFCC Distinguished Women Scientist Award for Contribution to In-Vitro Diagnostics – sponsored by *Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd.* - **Dubai – (support received)**

KA will be the Chair of the Awards Committee when he becomes Past President. Changes to the guidelines will include a maximum of two nominations per society. The committee should also be proactive to encourage societies around the world to nominate individuals.

The Regional Representatives to the EB could help to encourage nominations as well. The term of office for all existing members term is over at the end of the year and a call will go out for nominations from the Federations. EH asked if there should be another award directed to developing countries. There was some concern about this but it can be discussed further.

18.0 IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)

Status, board renewal, future goals

TO will speak to Graham about his membership on the board and current members.

TO will stay on the board for continuity. We need to check the Swiss law for replacing and registering new board members.

19.0 Meetings

19.1. Council meeting

19.1.24 Munich Council meeting minutes have been circulated.

19.1.25 Dubai Council Meeting, May 2024

The Council meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, 1:00-5:00pm. The Young Scientist meeting is scheduled in the morning.

19.06. General Conference

19.06.15 Brussels GC – post event survey

The post event survey confirmed that the Brussels GC was well received by those attending. Almost all responses were “very satisfactory” or “satisfactory”. There were a few suggestions for improvement that will be considered for the next General Conference.

19.80 EB Meetings & International Relationships

Executive Board Meetings 2023 – in person

July 23rd and 24th (Sunday, Monday) Anaheim (CA, USA) at AACC (July 23rd-27th)

October 15th and 16th (Sunday, Monday) Prague (CZ) on occasion of the CELME (October 12th - 13th).

Executive Board Meetings 2023 – conference calls

A virtual meeting will be planned for early December, 2023.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.1 IFCC Office

Sofia Giardina’s position was confirmed for an additional year until March 2024.

Elisa Fossati was hired on April 1st 2023, on a 1 year contract, to be reviewed.

16.3. Nominations Committee

Election for IFCC EB, time in office: 2024-2026, conclusion of voting:

EB Corporate Members Representative: election closed on February 28th, 2023:

Tricia Ravalico (US), Abbott was elected as the Corporate Members Representative to the EB.

EB Regional Federations’ Representatives: election closed on February 28th, 2023, following members have been elected:

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB): Osama Najjar (PS)

African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC): Rajiv Erasmus (ZA)

Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB): Tony Badrick (AU)
European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM): Mario Plebani (IT)
Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI): Eduardo Freggiaro (AR)
North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC). David Grenache (US): appointed by NAFCC, no election necessary

Members' confirmation IFCC EB, time in office 2023:

Dr. Endang Hoyaranda (ID) has been confirmed as the APFCB Regional Federation Representative on the IFCC EB for time in office March 1st - December 31, 2023.
Prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić (HR) has been confirmed as EFLM Regional Federation Representative on the IFCC EB for time in office April 16th – December 31st, 2023.

16.7 Project Proposals

Potential new working group on: *Essential IVD Accessibility*

This will be discussed further at the meeting with WHO, including Joris Delanghe.

Project Proposal on "New Conference format for Clinical Mass Spectrometry in routine settings".

The SD did discuss this proposal and more information needs to be provided.

There was also a request to have a satellite meeting on Clinical Mass Spectrometry at the congress in Dubai. KA feels this is a good idea but advised that because this is a proposed satellite meeting, **it is up to the Conference Organizing Committee not the SPC to decide on this request.** It was also suggested that the meeting should be more international than the one that was in Rome.

16.40 Other business

New Annual report form including members' evaluation distributed to Divisions/Cs/WGs/TFs, deadline March 15th

This is in progress.