

156th Meeting of the IFCC Executive Board December 15th, 2021

Minutes

The 156th 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)
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)

Apologies

Abderrazek Hedhili	(AH)	Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
Sunil Sethi	(SSE)	Asia-Pacific Fed for Clinical Biochemistry and Lab Med (APFCB)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.0 Opening remarks from President

- *EB meetings at EML and COLABIOCLI*
Because the EML Congress has been rescheduled to April 10-14, 2022 it would not be practical to hold a full EB meeting at the COLABIOCLI Congress. A smaller group of EB members will attend the COLABIOCLI Congress and there will be no change to any EB sponsored presentations.
- *Updates to EuroMedLab guidelines and a new contract for the 2023 Rome congress*
A new agreement with EFLM has been completed, and a new agreement is being negotiated with MZ. The goal is to achieve a fair distribution of income among all partners. The EB indicated support for both initiatives.
- *Development of an IFCC Virtual Platform to provide a hybrid option for all future IFCC conferences/events*
The IFCC should have a virtual option for all future conferences to meet the demand from the thousands of members who cannot attend conferences in person. IFCC should contract with a company for an IFCC branded option. KA is investigating options and estimates that the cost would be \$20,000 - \$25,000 per year to include all IFCC events versus past costs of over 20,000-80,000 Euro per event (total annual

cost of over 100,000 in 2021). One potential provider is InEvent, based in the US and Europe (<https://inevent.com/en/home.php>). KA will forward information on potential providers to the EB. The EB indicated support for the initiative and a small committee will be set up to investigate options and report to the EB.

- *IFCC Conferences (2023-2030) - New Profit-Sharing Formula with the PCO*
KA will continue to work on securing a favourable new profit-sharing agreement with MZ for EML meetings.
- *Call for Proposals – WL 2024 - 2026*
Brazil made a proposal for WL 2024 but then retracted it due to conflict with the COLABIOCLI conference in Columbia. ALMR says that the congress cannot be changed. COLABIOCLI is not ready to have a joint conference with WL at this time. Mexico may be interested in a bid for 2026. Other options might be in Asia again, in Dubai, in China, or in Eastern Europe in alternate year to EML. KA feels that this may not be the best time for proposals and a hold has been put the request for bids for now until the pandemic situation is more clear and national societies will be in a position to host future conferences.
- *IFCC Regional and Corporate Member Townhalls: guidelines and schedule (outcome)*
The feedback on the townhalls was positive. The virtual platform worked well and the meetings were well organized. The guidelines for the townhalls will be updated for 2022. AMLR asked about the responses to the questions received, such as how committee members are chosen, the issue of countries in the same geographic region belonging to different Federations, and standardization of regulatory requirements for IVD products. A survey has been sent to participants and all issues/questions can be addressed after that. JP noted that the recent full week workshop with IFCC, JCTLM, BIPM that was very successful, was intended to address one of the townhall issues, that is to come up with position paper on regulatory requirements and standardization.
- *IFCC Webinars*
The WorkCast virtual meeting platform is working very well and is very cost effective. The IFCC was paying \$3,000 per webinar for YS events as compared to a yearly cost of 10-12,000 pounds for about 25 Webinars from WorkCast this year. Each webinar has about 4,000 participants from over 100 countries. KA, Silvia and Smeralda developed guidelines for webinars that will standardize presentations, regardless of the presenter or coordinator. As of Jan 2022, the plan is for 2 webinars per month, 2 weeks apart. The TF has approved the guidelines.
- *IFCC Global Lab Week*
The committee is meeting regularly and the regional representatives have joined the committee. A call will go out for corporate members, YSs and champions. Videos and slide presentations have been developed.
- *Proposed membership for the New Taskforces*
TF-GRID chair is Prof Zirk from Germany and the TF has had one meeting so far. TF-OSLM, members have been selected but the chair has not been identified. KA is interviewing a prospective candidate. *IFCC Executive Board Strategic Meeting with Division Chairs and Division Executives*
The uncertain COVID situation and increased travel restrictions make planning this meeting difficult. Thus it will be delayed until March. PB will advise the hotel.

1.1.155 Minutes of the hybrid EB Meeting, September 13th – 14th, 2021
The final minutes have been circulated.

15.00

Finances

15.2

Treasurer report

2022 Budget

The rescheduling of the EML Congress did result in some costs that AHA is addressing, including reimbursement for travel cancellations that were not refundable. It was noted that delegates should avoid purchasing tickets that cannot be rescheduled, or cancelled with a credit, or refunded with a small penalty. The purchase of fully refundable tickets is not recommended, as these can be quite expensive.

Estimated income for 2021 is 1million 40 thousand SF, which is reduced due to cancelled congresses. In the proposed budget for 2022, AHA is expecting 1million 40 thousand SF income. If all goes as planned we may have more than 2 million SF income, but only 700 SF if meetings are not successful. There may be a need to be conservative in expenses if our income is significantly reduced. Functional group budgets will be the same as last year for most, with some increases in ETD. In general the budget will support 2 physical meetings for each group, ideally at EuroMedLab Munich and the General Conference. At present there is an estimated deficit of over 800,000 SF, but there are sufficient funds in savings from 2020 and 2021 to offset this. AHA, KA and DK will meet to finalize the proposed budget prior to review and approval by the EB in January.

3.0

Corporate Members

3.2

Applications

Medix Biochemica, numbering 03.01.114, approved on Oct 13th

Diagnostica Stago, numbering 03.01.115, approved on Nov 11th

Autobio Diagnostics, numbering: 03.01.116, welcome on Nov 16th (*membership as of 2022*)

Guangzhou Wondfo Biotechnology 03 01 93 - renewed interest, pending EB revenue

5.0

Regional Organisations

Regional Federations updates

5.2.

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

MoU revision proposal

AMLR asked if the MoU could be signed at the COLABIOCLI congress. KA responded that it should be signed at the congress, or via email if necessary.

13.03

Scholarships

Scholarships for COLABIOCLI Congress, March 2022

IFCC may provide 5 scholarships for the COLABIOCLI congress, and perhaps the Federation could use some of the money from the IFCC annual grant for 5 more scholarships, plus 2 from the Roche grant (that must go to a low/medium income country. AMLR will follow up on possible scholarships from COLABIOCLI.

19.0

Meetings

19.80

Executive Board Meetings 2021

Proposal of venues for in person EB Meetings:

- *Munich (DE) – EuroMedLab*
- *Seoul (KR) - WorldLab*
- *GC - Brussels (BE)*

Executive Board Meetings 2022 – conference calls

May, late July, early Sep, Nov-Dec

Dates to be defined

3rd week of Jan meeting if we do not go to Italy for in person meeting.

16.0 Organisational Matters

16.40 Other business

Functional Group Member Renewals

The review of the functional group members term renewals will be via email.

IFCC IT Provider

KA noted that a search will be conducted for a new IT provider for IFCC

Rojeet has asked EB members to record a Holiday message that will be posted on social media. KA indicated that EB members can do so at their option.