

## 132<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Executive Board Athens (Greece), June 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Minutes

### Participants:

#### **EB Members**

Maurizio Ferrari	(MF)	President
Howard Morris	(HM)	President-elect
Sergio Bernardini	(SB)	Secretary
Tomris Ozben	(TO)	Treasurer
Rosa Sierra-Amor	(RSA)	Member
Vanessa Steenkamp	(VS)	Member
Rolf Hinzmann	(RH)	Corporate Representative (Roche)

#### **Invited guests**

Mohammed Hassan Kamil	(MHK)	AFCB President
Adekunle Bashiru Okesina	(ABO)	AFCC President
Sunil Sethi	(SS)	APFCB President
Graciela Queiruga	(GQ)	COLABIOCLI President
Sverre Sandberg	(SVS)	EFLM President
David Kinniburgh	(DK)	NAFCC President

## 1. Preliminaries

1.0 Apologies for absence: RH will not be able to attend the meeting  
GQ apologises for not being able to participate, MHK did not reply to the invitation. SVS participated only in the specific Regional Federations session due to conflicting meetings.

1.0 Welcome and opening remarks from President MF.

### 1.1.131 Minutes of 131<sup>st</sup> EB Meeting, Milano

EB approved the Full Minutes and the Summary Minutes from the 131<sup>st</sup> Meeting.

#### Action List from 131<sup>st</sup> EB Meeting

EB noted that almost all the action list from the previous EB in Milan is complete.

#### 7.3.2.24 EuroMedLab 2021

Four applications were received to host EuroMedLab 2021: Vienna (Austria), Munich (Germany), Poznan (Poland), St. Petersburg (Russia). Neither the IFCC C-CC nor the EFLM C-ET evaluated applications from Vienna and Poznan as both of these sites did not meet the mandatory Exhibition Pavilion requirements as reported by MZ Congressi. Based on the recommendations of the IFCC C-CC and the EFLM C-ET, EB decided that the EuroMedLab 2021 will be held in Munich.

#### 7.2.25 IFCC WorldLab 2023

A total of three applications were received for WorldLab 2023: Rome (Italy), Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and Glasgow (UK). All the applications meet the mandatory Exhibition Pavilion requirements as reported by MZ Congressi. The C-CC recommended Rome, although the scores for Rome and Amsterdam were very close.

EB accepted the recommendation that WorldLab 2023 will be held in Rome.

#### SWOT Analysis (2<sup>nd</sup> meeting Milan, February 2017)

EB discussed the results from the SWOT Analysis (2<sup>nd</sup> meeting Milan, February 2017) to update the Strategic Plan according to the priority-score calculated by all the EB members (the lowest number is the highest priority):

- Increasing the efficiency of operative units through performance evaluation (17)
- Financial sustainability: new and different sources of incomes (17)
- Membership (25)
- Fulfil Corporate member's needs (25)
- Relation with Clinical societies (26)
- Promoting Value of Lab Med (28)
- Feasibility study to increase Media Presence of IFCC (36)
- International collaborations (38)

EB noted that all these activities are completed or ongoing.

The SWOT analysis raised concern about the application of the MedTech EU Ethical Code. JW attended the GMTCC (Global MedTech Conference in Amsterdam May 2017) and in particular the session :“ask the experts” and sent some interesting answers to the EB:

- **Entertainment activities:** a Member Company shall not organise Events that include social, sporting and/or leisure activities or other forms of Entertainment, nor support such elements where part of the Third Party Organised Educational Events. For Third Party Organised Educational Events, Entertainment must be outside of the educational programme schedule and paid for separately by the Healthcare Professionals. Entertainment should not dominate or interfere with the overall scientific content of the programme and must be held during times that do not overlap with a scientific session. The Entertainment should not be the main attraction of the Third Party Organised Educational Events. When not under the scope of the Conference Vetting System, Companies need to assess this themselves, but CVS scrutinizes the communication material to ensure that Entertainment is indeed not dominant.
- **Local interest groups (cities, states) co-sponsor to promote tourism:** Members must assess what is reasonable in any given location and regional and country variations will apply independently by costs.
- **Promotional materials distributed by industry at conferences:** Member Companies may provide inexpensive educational items and/or gifts, in accordance with national laws, regulations and industry and professional codes of conduct for the country where the Healthcare Professional is licensed to practice. Member Companies can only provide such educational items and/or gifts in accordance of the following principles: a) Educational items and/or gifts may be provided but these must relate to the Healthcare Professional's practice, or benefit patients,

or serve a genuine educational function; b) No educational items and/or gifts should be provided in response to requests made by Healthcare Professionals; c) Educational items and/or gifts must not be given in the form of cash or equivalents; d) Educational items and/or gifts must be modest in value, and can be branded or non-branded items.

- **Joint Conferences with industry and conference organizers both speaking at the same symposium:** if speakers are selected by the organiser, and they are not HCPs, this setup could potentially be compliant with the Code. If it is indeed for example an engineer coming from a company speaking about the technical aspects of a new technology, this wouldn't necessarily fall under the scope of the Code. If an HCP is speaking on behalf of the company then that would not be allowed.
- **Co-branded IFCC-Company Conferences:** The Code does provide criteria for company-organised events. It does not regulate co-branding.
- **MedTech Europe Code application in North America:** the Code is applicable when our Members interact with HCPs or HCOs based or registered in Europe and when an event takes place in Europe. The Code requires that our member Companies make sure that an event that they are supporting has been previously assessed positively by CVS when the event is in the scope of the system. CVS assess international or cross-border events that are attended by HCPs coming from at least 2 different European Countries. This means that if an European Company provides the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemistry with an educational Grant so that 10 HCPs from UK, Germany, France and Italy can attend, this will bring the event under the scope of CVS, and the conference will need to be assessed by CVS in order for the Company to be able to provide the Educational Grant.
- **Amendments to the Europe MedTech Code:** The MedTech Europe Ethics & Compliance Committee would make a recommendation to the MedTech Europe Code Committee, who will lead the discussion and make a proposal back to the Ethics & Compliance Committee and the MedTech Europe Legal Affairs Committee. The agreed proposal would then be submitted to the MedTech Europe Board. Depending on the importance of the change, the Board may decide to submit such a change to the General Assembly of MedTech Europe.

HM will prepare a document on the issues for current IFCC practice that will be affected by the MedTech Ethical Code for discussion by EB members.

The EB in principle is in favour to sign the Ethical Charter as also suggested by RH. MZ will analyse the document in details as soon as it will be available. Registration of the WorldLab and EuroMedLab programmes within the Ethical Charter will require approval by the Conference Vetting System of MedTech.

#### IFCC Membership

The EB decide to elaborate a document to try to move towards the Council in Durban Meeting with the proposal to change the rule "one full member for each Country" suggesting the principle that "one vote for each Country" should be divided between different Societies in the same Country proportionally to the number of members of each Society. Moreover EB will elaborate a proposal to the Council about the joining of non IVD Companies (i.e. Pharma, IT) to IFCC as "Affiliate Corporate Members".

## 2. Full Member Societies

2.4 EB noted:

- the creation of the new Russian Full Member Society: "Association of Laboratory Specialists and Organizations «Federation of laboratory medicine» (FLM)" from actual one "Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM)";
- Ukrainian Full Member "Ukrainian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics (USCLD)" merged with the Affiliate Member "Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)", The new name is "Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)";
- Full Membership of "Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry (KACC)".
- Request of application for Full Membership on behalf of "Belarus Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnosticians", "Palestine Medical Technology Association-PMTA" and "Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá".

## 4. Affiliate Members

4.4 EB agreed on the re-admission of "Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg", against payment of 2014-15-16 dues. 2017 dues still to be received.

## 3. Corporate Members

EB noted the paper from RH and discussed about a more relevant involvement of Corresponding Members in IFCC functional units. EB is in principle agree that in all IFCC functional units there should be at least one representative from CMs but free of charge for IFCC. This issue will be discussed by MF at the next meeting with CMs at the Athens EuroMedLab.

EB approved "Beijing Dream Diagnostics Medicine (DDM) Technology Co. Ltd." Company's application to join IFCC.

## **15. Financial Matters**

### **15.1 Treasurer's Report (TO)**

EB noted the positive Audit report 2016 (consultants H&G from Milan).

#### 2017 Budget update as of May 25<sup>th</sup>(amounts in CHF)

Total Incomes 2017: *proposal* 1.053.500; *actual at 25 May* 581.716.

Total Expenses 2017: *proposal* 1.779.155; *actual at 25 May* 171.720. Net incomes/(loss): *proposal* (463.356); *actual at 25 May* 409.995.

Received dues at 25 May: Full members 148.900 (79,69%); Affiliate Members 3.058 (63,71%); Corporate Members 207.436 (61,24%).

Performance of the Credit Suisse Investment: mean return Jan-May 2017 +1.60%. The basic fee plus the investment fees has been lower than in the past (LGT).

EuroMedLab Athens IFCC fee (15% of Total Income) approximately 510.000 CHF.

## **8. Scientific Division (SD)**

### **8.13. Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory medicine (JCTLM)**

#### **6.37 NIST Representation at SD-EC**

HM will follow up on this issue.

#### **6.38 ICHCLR**

GB and PG will represent IFCC. IFCC in principle is agrees to take responsibility for the secretariat of ICHCLR if the AACC agrees. MF and HM will discuss with AACC at Annual Meeting (San Diego, July 30-August 3, 2017)

#### **Joint Meeting with SD-EC.**

- Creation of New Division: "Emerging Technologies Division" (ETD), A working plan was submitted for evaluation. The principles agreed were the following: activities of SD and ETD must not overlap, the ETD should have a role of reviewing emerging technologies in Lab Medicine with emphasis on Cancer NGS (including liquid profiling), on Metabolomics (with special attention to Big Data elaboration and Omics integration), on new laboratory organizational models and on implantable diagnostic tools, on LabMed in Digital Health Systems.
- IFCC plans to involve new partners both Professionals and Companies. PG and SB will prioritize topics suitable for establishing Committees.
- EB nominated SB as Chair of the new Division (1<sup>st</sup> term of members starting in January 2018).
- PG ask for more flexibility in the amount of money assigned to each functional unit of the SD. In case of a justified request, EB will evaluate the demand of budget increase/reallocation within the division, and decide accordingly.
- The number of TFs will be reduced transforming some of them into Committees to be monitored by the Chair of the Division rather than by the EB liaison as at present.
- EB supported the continued functioning of the WG-TPI because of its work on the harmonization of this assay. PG suggested R. Christenson (US) as Chair. EB agree.
- PG suggested that TF-YS nominate a member as liaison with SD to encourage the submission of projects. EB also agree to involve YS in Committees. This participation needs to be planned considering costs, and therefore only some Committees will be included at present. PG will provide a list of priorities on this item.

## **9. Education and Management Division (EMD)**

EB noted the EMD report and Comments from RSA and VS.

## **10. Communications and Publications Division (CPD)**

EB noted the E-Academy report: In recent years distance learning has become a key initiative of the IFCC and is a strategic priority for the Executive Board.

The eAcademy is a Learning Management System using a curriculum based approach to catalogue and access educational material and contains linked presentations, webinars and other educational material managed through the Umbraco content management system. Two approaches are being used to acquire novel high quality material for the eAcademy. The first is to identify interesting presentations at IFCC and National Society scientific meetings and courses for recording and inclusion in the eAcademy. The second

approach, is to commission international experts to prepare single or series of short modules on specific topics for incorporation into the eAcademy. Several of these modules have already been published in the eAcademy. Much high quality distance learning material is produced by other professional bodies and we are providing links to these from the eAcademy. We are particularly grateful to EFLM and the AACB for allowing us access to material on their websites. All material published on the eAcademy or recommended by our committees is reviewed beforehand by members of the C-DL. It is through the generous financial support of Siemens that we are able to finance this approach.

For the future, the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase in the eAcademy, currently under development, will allow users of the eAcademy to register on the website to track their activity and also enable a series of multiple choice questions on module content, designed to assess how well the learning objectives have been met, which will be incorporated into each and provide performance assessment for CPD purposes.

Moreover, under the direction of the new C-IeL Chair Eduardo Freggiaro, much of the eAcademy material will be translated into Spanish utilising a subtitling online collaborative platform called Amara. Using Amara means that a large number of people work simultaneously on the translation of videos from English to Spanish. As such the IFCC is currently seeking volunteer translators to take part in the project and thus convert the educational material within the e Academy from English to Spanish (and potentially other languages in the future).

## **7. Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)**

EB approved the revision of guidelines for preparation of the scientific programme for an IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Guidelines for the organization of a satellite meeting to an IFCC-sponsored Congress or Conference. Both documents will be submitted to MZ for their notice.

RSA would like to recommend to C-CC to revise the rules to give IFCC Logo and Auspices. EB agree. MF will write a letter to the affiliated society from Mexico indicating they cannot use the logo in the certificates on clinical chemistry board certification.

### **7.2.23 IFCC WorldLab 2017, Durban (ZA)**

Durban, October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

EB received an updates by MF: the costs are already covered, but it is necessary a further promotion to increase the number of attendants. The costs have been reduced with reduction of exhibition space, duration of the congress and speakers' free travel and accommodation.

EB received an update of ICPLM programme from MF and finances from TO.

### **7.2.24 IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul (KR)**

Seoul, May 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

EB received an update from MF on congress planning. It is doing well.

## **7.3 IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

### **7.3.1.15 APFCB India, 2019**

Jaipur – Rajasthan, 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (tentative dates)

EB approved two IFCC Symposia at this Congress.

### **7.3.2.22 EuroMedLab 2017, Athens (GR)**

Athens, June 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

No items

### **7.3.2.23 EuroMedLab 2019, Barcelona (ES)**

Barcelona, May 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

EB received an update from MF, It is doing well.

### **7.3.4.23 COLABIOCLI Uruguay, 2017**

Punta del Este, 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

Finalized.

### **7.3.4.24 COLABIOCLI Panama, 2019**

EB approved two IFCC Symposia at this Congress.

### **7.3.6.15 AFCEB Congress**

Update on next Congress to be held in Palestine in 2018, MF

EB approved two IFCC Symposia at this Congress.

#### 7.3.7.5 AFCC

ABO on future congress: it will be held in 2019, the venue still to be established.

#### 7.4 IFCC Specialised Conferences

##### 7.4.1 Roche Bergmeyer Conference (March 2018, Eibsee, Germany)

Title: "Coagulation". Possible IFCC involvement following the application of the MedTech Code was discussed with JP (Roche). MF will meet again JP just as Roche will make a decision about it.

##### 7.40 Other Business

WASPaLM Congress

See SP n. 25

## 6. International and Professional Organisations

### 6.1 World Health Organisation (WHO)

Is ongoing

Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)

The new liaison is James Pierson-Perry, Siemens (SD-EC Corporate Representative)

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) –

HM will participate to the Steering Committee C-NPU during EuroMedLab in Athens. It is doing well.

### 6.13 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)

MF, HM and Roberto Verna (WASPaLM President-Elect) are keeping in touch to make the new agreement.

### 6.23 International Standards Organisation (ISO) - liaison RSA

No items to discuss

### 1.50 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

No items to discuss.

### 13.02 Professional Exchange Programmes

EB noted the PSEP applications 2017: EyobAbera Mesfin (Ethiopia), Marie Lenski (France), Cristina Ballén Ruíz (Spain).

EB noted the PMEP applications 2017: Lara Popoola Omolara (Nigeria) and Ronald Khunga (Malawi).

EB noted the allocation of the Jocelyn Hicks Travel Scholarship 2017: Prasenjit Mitra (India), Ngoc Lan Thi Nguyen (Vietnam), Susan Aketech (Kenya), Victor Daka (Zambia)

### 13.03 Roche Travel Scholarships

EB noted the allocation of the Roche Travel Scholarship 2017:

EuroMedLab Athens: Trilis Yulianti (Indonesia), Padma Padmavathi (India), Santosh Pradhan (Nepal), Benjamin Chijioko Esogwah (Nigeria), Aaron Tembo Kinzani (Zambia).

COLABIOCLI scholarship: one to Bolivia and one open for Honduras and Guatemala (deadline extended to June 25<sup>th</sup>). If there will not be candidates, the scholarship will be open to other Countries outside COLABIOCLI.

The remaining funds will be devoted for scholarship to attend the WorldLab in Durban (deadline July16<sup>th</sup>).

## 18. IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations

EB received an update from TO about Foundation's activities

Project "Adopt a Professional Project" – accepted applications:

Training by Paraguayan applicant in Rome at SB Laboratory starting from next December.

Training by Zambian applicant in Palermo at SIBioC's President (M. Ciaccio) laboratory started in June.

Proficiency of malaria microscopists in Ethiopia – Desalegn Nega

The Board assessed this application as being of good quality and high clinical importance. They felt it is a project that FEN would like to support. However, it is a large and expensive project and the maximum FEN contribution would only provide ~3% of the total budget. The applicants indicate that the balance would be provided by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health. The Board agreed that GB should contact the applicants to gain



further information on Ministry funding and to see if FEN could support the project without providing funds. The final decision of the FEN Board is pending.

#### Revision of medical laboratory education in Addis Ababa – Mistire Wolde

The Board understood that the University of Addis Ababa has committed to revising its medical laboratory curriculum and it noted the proposal to use a survey system to establish future requirements. However, a significant proportion of the funding requested was for a workshop to evaluate the survey findings. The Board did not consider support for this workshop to be a sufficiently high priority to justify funding.

#### AfricaMedLab Radio

The Board received the message from Cuthbert Musururwa, Chairman of the Department of Chemical Pathology in which the radio project is based. The message guaranteed support for the project in terms of studio accommodation and informatics support for five years. The Board agreed that the reassurances provided by Prof Hilda Matarira and colleagues were sufficient to ensure that the equipment supported by a FEN award will be put to good use in the radio project. Prof Matarira has a good chance of raising funds locally for ongoing support of the project.

#### Fundraising

There is no success to generate new funds.

### **The IFCC Medal for Outstanding Service**

The selected nominated officers are: Päivi Laitinen, Cas Weykamp, Paolo Mocarrelli and in memory of Daniel Mazziotta.

## **14. IFCC Statutes and Rules**

### **19. Meetings**

19.3 Executive Board meetings in 2017:

Durban, before the WorldLab Congress: October 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

19.3 Executive Board meetings in 2018

February 2018 Milan

Possibly July 27<sup>th</sup> -August 29<sup>th</sup> venue: Chicago before AACC Conference

October-November GC venue

### **19.6 General Conference**

EB discussed possible sites and dates. EB agree to hold the GC over four days, in the period October 15-November 15, 2018. There are four sites were proposed: Prague, Toronto, Mexico City and Budapest. It was agreed that cost would be a major determinant for selection amongst these sites. EB will receive quotes from each site and a decision is to be reached by the end of July.

### **19.1 Council Meeting**

Durban, Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 – 09.00-17.00

EB discussed the outline IFCC Council Agenda that to be approved electronically, following which it will be circulated to NRs to collect items for discussion.

## **16. Organizational Matter**

16.1 IFCC Office

16.3 IFCC Nominations Committee

EB noted following calls for nominations for EB positions (2018-2020):

Call for nomination for Treasurer and Secretary positions: elections conducted from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, results: DK as Secretary, TO as Treasurer;

Call for nominations for the Regional Representatives: open from March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> with ballot taking place September 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017;

Call for nominations for the Corporate Representative: Ballot taking place from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### **16.40 Other business**

## 11. IFCC Awards

EB noted the WorldLab Durban Awards

- IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award – Sponsored by IFCC  
bestowed to: *Prof. Yuk M. Dennis LO*
- IFCC Distinguished International Services Award (1981-1987) - IFCC-Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Services (since 1990) – *SIEMENS*  
bestowed to: *Prof. Jocelyn M. B. HICKS*
- IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education – *ABBOTT*  
bestowed to: *Prof. Nader RIFAI*
- IFCC-Abbott Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics – *ABBOTT MOLECULAR*  
bestowed to: *Ass. Prof. Susan BRANFORD*
- IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care – *SEKISUI*  
bestowed to: *Dr Eleftherios DIAMANDIS*
- IFCC-Robert Shaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine Co-sponsored by NIST and CLSI – *NIST / CLSI*  
bestowed to: *Prof. Mathias M. MÜLLER*
- IFCC Young Investigator Award (from 2011) – IFCC  
bestowed to: *Dr Rojeet SHRESTHA*
- IFCC Hytest Distinguished Award for contributions to Cardiovascular Diagnostics- HYTEST  
bestowed to: *Dr Jack H. LADENSON*

The Gérard SIEST-Biologie Prospective Award, supported by a grant of 10,000 € from Biologie Prospective, will be awarded in 2020. A contract for this award will be drawn up in the near future.

## 5. Regional Organisations

5.01 Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)

EB noted that the IFCC-APFCB MoU was finalized

5.02 COLABIOCLI

EB noted the COLABIOCLI report.

5.04 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

Meeting with the President of EFLM, Sverre Sandberg.

Further information was requested from the EB on the subject of “Expansion of membership of IFCC” and in particular the strategy the risk/benefits for IFCC, NSs and Laboratory Medicine and which should be the role of Regional Federations. It was resolved that the IFCC while continuing discussion on the topic was not making a proposal in the near future. Professor Sandberg presented a report of EFLM activities. He reported that the EC4 Foundation has been disbanded as a legal entity and its activities incorporated within EFLM (<https://register.eflm.eu>). A new logo, new website and the EuroLabsNews were completed.

5.05 Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

EB noted that a better communication is needed with the AFCB President.

5.06 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

EB noted the IFCC-AFCC-ASLM MoU-Proposal to be signed in the near future.

5.07 North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)

EB received the DK 's report :

The CSCC were active in a number of initiatives in 2016, summarized below.

The CSCC continues to support the following: a) appropriate laboratory utilization through participation and support for 'Choosing Wisely Canada', b) participating in the Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine (CLCLM) which provides advocacy in the areas of education, workload and quality assurance, c) working with other laboratory medicine organizations and industry partners in LabCanDx to promote the value of laboratory medicine, and d) implementing the results of the CSCC Working Group on Clinical Laboratory Test Harmonization.

The AACC remains active in Lab Tests Online that continues to grow in terms of content and visits. 160 reviewed/updated articles and 26 new articles in 2016, and a 7% increase in visits over 2015.

Moreover the new AACC journal, The Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine was launched in July.

There were 14 continuing education certificate programs, 26 online webinars, 7 additional national conferences and 3 international conferences. Building on the successful program in Latin America, a similar



AACC Global Lab Quality Initiative was launched in the Asia-Pacific region, with the support of the APFCB. The universal sample bank sets were made commercially available. The Advocacy Program was active lobbying in support of Children's Health, Harmonization, Laboratory-Developed Tests, and Reimbursement and the Changing Healthcare Environment. The AACC and CSCC are completing preparations for a joint meeting to be held in San Diego, California in July of 2017, in conjunction with the Clinical Lab Expo.

DK reported on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), an initiative of the EU. EB agreed to request MZ to be aware of and compliant with this procedure to protect IFCC sensitive data.