

**From: Prof Maurizio Ferrari – IFCC President  
Prof Howard Morris – IFCC President elect**

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**Ref: Urgent Call for Support for Scholarships for Young African Scientists to Attend WorldLab 2017**

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**To: Presidents and National Representatives of IFCC Member Societies**

Dear Friends,

2017 is an historic year for IFCC and our profession; it is the first time our principal event, the triennial International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, (WorldLab) will be held on the African continent.

Many of you will remember the impact of attending your first WorldLab Congress whether it be in Europe, the Americas, Asia or even Australia. It is an inspirational experience for building a rewarding career in laboratory medicine and has a major positive impact on creating interest in our profession and building national societies.

IFCC awarded the hosting of WorldLab 2017 to the South African Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine to improve the practice of laboratory medicine in this rapidly developing and populous continent and to assist our national societies in Africa. Critical to achieving these aims is the attendance of young clinical laboratory practitioners. To this end the IFCC, particularly with the support of our Corporate Members, has allocated funds for 70 scholarships.

We are pleased to report that applications have been received from 100 young African scientists, well more than the number for which have funding. We are now asking our National Societies: can you support these young scientists achieve their dreams?

The criteria for these awards are the following:

It is the first time for the award of an IFCC scholarship; younger than 40 years; priority to abstract presenters and a personal statement highlighting what the applicant hopes to gain by attending this Congress.

Each scholarship provides a maximum of 4 nights' accommodation, contribution to economy air travel and bank charges. The Conference Organizing Committee is providing registration for WorldLab 2017.

On average, each scholarship costs \$US950/ Euro830/ CHF930. Can your national society support one or more scholarships, or even contribute a partial funding for a scholarship?

You can make a difference to the career of a young African scientist.

These applicants are waiting anxiously to hear the outcome. I ask that you give urgent consideration as to whether your National Society, or even individual members, can assist.

We need to hear from you by 22 August 2017.

Regards



*Professor. Maurizio Ferrari*  
IFCC President



*Professor Howard Morris*  
IFCC President Elect