

**From:** Prof. Khosrow Adeli – IFCC President

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**Ref:** New IFCC Taskforce on Global Reference Interval Database (TF-GRID)

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## **To: IFCC National Representatives, Regional Federations, Corporate Members**

Dear all,

Reference intervals for laboratory markers are considered health-associated benchmarks that are essential to the interpretation of patient test results and clinical decision making. While numerous reference interval studies have been conducted around the world, no centralized resource exists to allow easy access to the resulting data. This significantly hinders the ability of laboratory and other healthcare professionals to implement the most up-to-date reference intervals in their practice, thereby compromising clinical decision-making. The new IFCC Taskforce on Global Reference Interval Database will aim to improve the diagnosis and monitoring of patients worldwide by creating an **IFCC Centralized Database of Laboratory Reference Intervals for Pediatric, Adult, and Geriatric Populations**. This database will act as a key resource in laboratory test result interpretation, as well as reference interval development, comparison across studies, and ultimately harmonization where possible. It will also work closely with the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL).

### **IFCC Taskforce on Global Reference Interval Database: Scope & Mandate**

- Develop an IFCC website highlighting all major national and international reference interval studies/programs in clinical chemistry and hematology.
- Create a centralized global reference interval database hosted on the IFCC website by collating data from the completed templates. This database would enable users to search for major reference interval studies and view reference interval data. It would also have an interactive component in which the user could input a patient's test result for comparison to available reference interval data within the database.
- Create a harmonized tool for global users to upload data and calculate reference intervals using various statistical methods. Create an IFCC mobile app for easy access to the reference interval database.
- Analyze global reference interval data to (1) create scatterplots of reference values in individuals from regions across the world, (2) assess potential similarities and differences in reference data between countries and/regions, and (3) assess opportunities for reference interval harmonization.

**Membership:** The Taskforce will consist of a chair and at least 4 full members. Corporate representatives from interested companies can also be members. Nomination of representatives from major reference interval studies in various regions are specially encouraged. Members will provide expertise, plan for the development of the program, and communicate with study teams globally.

**Meeting Arrangements:** 1-2 in-person meetings annually as well as monthly meetings virtually via Zoom or a similar platform, monthly. Meeting frequency can increase when appropriate. One member will be responsible for outlining the meeting agenda and recording meeting minutes, which will be distributed to members before and after each meeting, respectively.

**Reporting:** The Taskforce will directly report to the IFCC President and the Executive Board quarterly with a document summarizing progress made within that quarter.

**Deliverables:**

- Development of an IFCC reference interval website highlighting studies globally
- Development of a centralized global reference interval database and mobile app
- Reference data analysis and comparison to assess feasibility of harmonization

IFCC National Societies and corporate members are invited to nominate experts in the field of laboratory reference intervals to join this important Taskforce. Please send the following information to Paola Bramati at the IFCC office by **June 30, 2021**: ([paola.bramati@ifcc.org](mailto:paola.bramati@ifcc.org))

- A formal letter explaining the nominee's interest in the position and the contribution that we can expect from the candidate,
- Any proposals or ideas for topics the Taskforce should address
- A short CV.

Taskforce members will be selected from nominations received from national societies and corporate members; however, **expertise on reference intervals as demonstrated by high quality publications in the field is the most important criterion for selection of Taskforce members**. In addition to those selected from nominations received by membership societies, the IFCC may select some Taskforce members who are key experts in this field from around the world. Candidates or nominees that have not been selected can apply to become corresponding members of the Taskforce.

We look forward to nominations from national societies around the world and I am convinced that this new Taskforce will successfully strengthen the IFCC's mission towards better healthcare worldwide.

With kind regards,



Prof. Khosrow Adeli  
IFCC President