

From: Prof. Khosrow Adeli – IFCC President
Date: September 2020
Ref: New IFCC Taskforce on Global Lab Quality

PRESIDENT
Prof. Khosrow ADELI
Pediatric Laboratory Medicine
The Hospital for Sick Children
University of Toronto
Ontario M5G 1X8 – Canada
Email: president@ifcc.org

SECRETARY
Dr. David KINNIBURGH
Alberta Centre for Toxicology
University of Calgary
Alberta T2N 4N1 – Canada
Email: dkinnibu@ucalgary.ca

TREASURER
Prof. Tomris OZBEN
Akdeniz University - Medical Faculty
Department of Clinical Biochemistry
07070 Antalya – Turkey
Email: ozben@akdeniz.edu.tr

CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Rolf HINZMANN
Roche Diabetes Care GmbH
68305 Mannheim – Germany
Email: rolf.hinzmann@roche.com

**IFCC REGIONAL FEDERATION
REPRESENTATIVES**

African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Prof. Adekunle Bashiru OKESINA
Department of Chemical Pathology and Immunology
- University of Ilorin
Kwara State – Nigeria
Email: drokesina@yahoo.com

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
Prof. Abderrazek HEDHILI
Laboratoire de Toxicologie CMYAMU
Montfleury 1008 – Tunisia
Email: abderrazek.hedhili@yahoo.fr

**Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry
and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)**
Dr. Sunil SETHI
Department of Laboratory Medicine
National University Hospital
Singapore 119074
Email: patsks@nus.edu.sg

**European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and
Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)**
Prof. Sverre SANDBERG
The Norwegian Quality Improvement of Laboratory
Examinations (NOKLUS)
Haraldsplass Deaconess Hospital
N-5009 Bergen – Norway
Email: sverre.sandberg@uib.no

**Latin-American Confederation of Clinical
Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)**
Dr. Rosa SIERRA-AMOR
LAQUIMS, S.C. Clinical Laboratory
Veracruz – Mexico 91700
Email: rosa.sierra.amor@gmail.com

**North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)**
Dr. Ann M. GRONOWSKI
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO 63110 – USA
Email: gronowski@wustl.edu

IFCC Office
Via Carlo Farini, 81
20159 Milano – Italy
Tel: +39 02 66809912
Email: ifcc@ifcc.org
website: <http://www.ifcc.org/>

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

Dear all,

Challenges with appropriate internal quality control (iQC) programs in many developing countries reduce the overall quality of laboratory results and make it difficult to identify laboratory-associated errors and track assay performance over time. Implementation of an international iQC program would improve the overall quality of laboratory results and provide a platform for a robust and harmonized approach for monitoring quality performance. A more direct role of the IFCC, by training laboratories in developing countries as well as ensuring the availability of affordable iQC resources, is essential to achieve these goals. A new IFCC initiative aims to address this gap, and upon successful implementation, will positively contribute to patient care globally.

In addition, participation in external quality assurance (EQA) programs is one of the tenets of quality management in laboratory medicine. Lack of access to EQA in many developing or underdeveloped countries has a direct impact on quality of laboratory results and thereby patient care. Consistent with the IFCC's mandate to promote quality in clinical chemistry, and in view of its announced strategic plans for 2020-2023, an IFCC Taskforce on Global Lab Quality will be established to address this important challenge. The Taskforce will establish an External Quality Assurance (EQA) program in partnership with a suitable vendor to help clinical laboratories in developing countries with limited access to EQA address their quality assurance needs. The program will begin as a pilot project to provide EQA for select countries/laboratories and expand upon successful implementation of the pilot. The Taskforce will also aim to provide support for internal quality control (iQC) needs of the clinical laboratories around the world.

IFCC Taskforce on Global Lab Quality: Scope & Mandate

iQC Program:

- Identify vendors capable of providing quality control materials and associated software for on-going monitoring.
- Develop training program for participating laboratories.
- Form scientific support teams to train and support staff on-site at participating laboratories.
- Plan for maintenance and monitoring of the iQC program by the IFCC.

EQA Program:

- Through a call for applications to participate, select countries for the pilot program, and in collaboration with the respective member societies, select candidate participating laboratories within each country. A formal call for participation by developing countries will be issued soon by the IFCC office.
- Through on-site visits, evaluate the preparedness of the participating laboratories for subscription to the EQA program and identify gaps that must be addressed.
- Retain a vendor through an open bidding process to provide the EQA material and software for the EQA program.
- Develop detailed written guidelines for the participating laboratories.
- Dispatch scientific support teams to help initiate the EQA program at the participating labs. Expert teams will be formed by the taskforce from IFCC membership and will include both senior and young scientists.
- Plan for maintenance and monitoring of the EQA's progress by the IFCC.
- Develop a plan for expansion of the EQA program in respect of geographical scope and included laboratory tests.

Membership: The Taskforce will consist of at least a chair and 4 full members. Corporate representatives from interested companies can also be members. Members will provide expertise, plan for the development of the program and direct the scientific teams for on-site visits and training. Term of office: 3 years with the possibility of renewal for a second term.

Meeting Arrangements: Monthly virtual meetings via Zoom monthly and 1-2 in-person meetings annually. 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 report to the IFCC Executive Board quarterly with a document summarizing progress made within that quarter.

Deliverables: Development of scalable EQA and iQC programs to be utilized in clinical laboratories, which include:

- EQA and iQC material
- Distribution channels
- Software
- Standardized training and implementation program
- Remote and on-site training/monitoring

IFCC National Societies and corporate members are invited to nominate experts in the field of quality assurance to join this important Taskforce. Please send the following information to Paola Bramati at the IFCC office by **October 30, 2020**: (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 in Internal and/or External Quality Assurance 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 from key experts in the field of Quality Assurance 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