



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

The organisation and delivery of Laboratory Medicine services is undergoing rapid change in every country in the world. This pamphlet summarises the drivers for change and how IFCC intends to respond.

Leading the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine worldwide - www.ifcc.org

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE IN LABORATORY MEDICINE

Globalisation:

- Laboratory medicine is becoming increasingly global thanks to instant communication and the influence of global organisations and companies.
- This has led to an appreciation of the need for a common approach to quality standards and clinical applications to meet expectations of patients, clinicians and other health stakeholders.

Technological Advance:

- Technological advance continues to impact on the organisation and delivery of laboratory medicine.
- Recent examples include the technological revolution in genomics, informatics and nanotechnology.

Economies of Scale:

- Healthcare budgets are under pressure across the world as we struggle to cope with an ageing population, medical advances and a rapidly rising workload.
- Laboratory medicine has shown itself to be flexible by improving efficiency, sharing technology and adopting common practices.

Integrated Diagnostics:

- Technological advance and economies of scale are eroding the traditional boundaries between laboratory medicine disciplines.
- The advent of patient choice, personalised medicine and new technology are creating an integrated approach to diagnostics.

Adding Value to Improve Patient Outcomes:

- All of the above factors highlight the need for experts who can organise services and interpret increasingly complex data.
- Laboratory medicine specialists must add value in order to convert data into knowledge to improve patient outcomes.

THE IFCC RESPONSE TO CHANGE

IFCC Must Embrace Change:

- The Executive Board believes the changing world of laboratory medicine offers critical opportunities that cannot be ignored.
- It believes that IFCC needs to improve its responsiveness and be more inclusive.

Opportunities for IFCC:

- A more inclusive IFCC will:
 - Have greater global influence with the World Health Organisation, United Nations and other global organisations.
 - Expand its role in setting quality and practice standards that will improve patient safety and clinical outcomes.
 - Increase its credibility with global clinical organisations in demonstrating the clinical value of laboratory medicine.
 - Develop a compelling 'single voice' for laboratory medicine.
 - Expand the number and range of projects as well as increase collaboration with appropriate projects to involve more experts from more countries.
 - Improve the quality of services and support to its Members and its affiliated Regional Federations.
 - Offer economies of scale to its Full and Corporate Members.
 - Avoid accusations of discrimination and restrictive practice.

Proposed Change:

- IFCC proposes to open its membership to any properly constituted society or company that works in laboratory medicine.
- New members would be welcome from any branch of laboratory medicine and from informatics and pharmaceutical companies.
- IFCC proposes to remove the current restriction on one Full Member per country, so eliminating the need for Affiliate Members.
- There are implications of this proposed change for the IFCC statutes. These will be debated at the next IFCC Council.
- IFCC also proposes to update its image and branding to better depict its role as a global leader in laboratory medicine.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

An Invitation to Discuss:

- During the next twelve months IFCC is keen to listen to the opinions of its Members
- You may contact IFCC in a number of ways:
 - By face to face discussion with a member of the IFCC Executive Board. This can occur at any of the following congresses:
 - EuroMedLab, Milan in May 2013.
 - AACC Congress, Houston in July 2013.
 - AFCC Congress, Capetown in July 2013.
 - APFCB Congress, Bali in October 2013.
 - COLABIOCLI Congress, Lima in October 2013.
 - By face to face discussion at an IFCC Corporate Member meeting in Milan or in Houston.
- By email to president@ifcc.org

An Invitation to the IFCC Council:

- All IFCC Members are invited to participate in a debate, which will take place at the IFCC Council meeting in Istanbul in June 2014.
- An electronic vote on changing the membership criteria will take place shortly after the Council debate.
- If a change in membership criteria is approved it will come into effect in January 2015.
- New rules would need to be implemented to ensure appropriate representation.

An Opportunity to Shape the Future:

- This is an exciting and important time for laboratory medicine and its contribution to healthcare.
- Therefore, it is the right time for IFCC to consider its future leadership role.
- Everyone who cares about IFCC has a chance to express his/her opinion and to influence the vote on membership that will take place after the Council meeting in 2014.
- This is your opportunity to shape the future of laboratory medicine.

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