

**From:** Prof. Deborah Payne – Chair Committee on Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)  
Prof. Ian Young – Chair Scientific Division (SD)

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**Ref:** Call for application – laboratory network in molecular diagnostics

## Scientific Division (SD)

### Chair

#### Prof. Ian YOUNG

School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical  
Sciences, Queen's University Belfast  
First Floor ICS B Block  
Royal Victoria Hospital  
Grosvenor Road  
Belfast BT12 6BJ - NORTHERN IRELAND  
Tel: +44 2890 632743  
Fax: +44 2890 235900  
e-mail: i.young@qub.ac.uk

### Vice-Chair

#### Prof. Philippe GILLERY

Lab. de Biologie et de Recherche  
Pédiatriques  
Hôpital Maison Blanche - CHU de Reims  
47 Rue Cognacq Jay  
51092 Reims Cedex - FRANCE  
Tel: +33 3 2678 3952  
Fax: +33 3 2678 3882  
e-mail: pgillery@chu-reims.fr

### Secretary

#### Mr. Joseph PASSARELLI

Scientific Relations  
Roche Diagnostics Corporation  
Research and Development  
9115 Hague Road, PO Box 50457  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250-0457 - US  
Tel: +1 317 521 4206  
Fax: +1 317 521 4103  
Mobile / Cell: 1-317-625-7810  
e-mail: joseph.passarelli@roche.com

### Members

#### Dr. Christa M. COBBAERT

Clinical Chemist  
Head of the Department of Clinical Chemistry  
Leiden University Medical Center  
Postbus 9600, Postzone E2-P  
2300 RC Leiden  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 71 5262278/+31 71 5264483  
Fax: +31 71 52666753.  
email: C.M.Cobbaert@lumc.nl

#### Prof. Giampaolo MERLINI

Biotechnology Research Laboratory  
Clinical Chemistry Central Laboratory  
Foundation IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo  
Department of Biochemistry, University of  
Pavia  
P.le Golgi, 2  
27100 Pavia  
ITALY  
Tel: +39 0382 502 995  
Fax: +39 0382 502 990  
e-mail: gmerlini@unipv.it

#### Prof. Tsutomu NOBORI

Professor Emeritus, Mie University  
Oyamada Memorial Spa Hospital  
5538-1 Yamada-cho, Yokkaichi  
Mie 512-1111, Japan  
Tel: (+81) 59-328-1260  
Fax: (+81) 59-328-1921  
e-mail: nobori@clin.medic.mie-u.ac.jp

### Corporate Representative

#### Mr. James F. PIERSON-PERRY

Principal Key Expert  
Global Assay Development, Glasgow Site  
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics  
Tel: +302.631.7692  
Cel: +302.229.6462  
Fax: +302.631.7487  
e-mail: james.f.pierson-perry@siemens.com

### JCTLM Consultant

#### Dr. Gary L. MYERS

AACC  
VP, Science and Practice Affairs  
1850 K Street, Suite 625  
Washington, DC 20006-2215 - USA  
Tel.: +1-(202) 420-7606  
Fax: +1 (202) 887-5093  
e-mail: gmyers@aacc.org

### IRMM Consultant

#### Dr. Heinz SCHIMMEL

European Commission - JRC - IRMM  
Retieseweg 111  
2440 Geel - BELGIUM  
Tel: +32 14 571720  
Fax: +32 14 590406  
e-mail: heinz.schimmel@cec.eu.int

### NIST Consultant

#### Dr. David BUNK

Chemical Science and Technology Lab.  
National Inst. of Standards and Technology  
100 Bureau Drive, MS 8392  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8392 - USA  
Tel: +1 301 9755071  
Fax: +1 301 9770685  
e-mail: david.bunk@nist.gov

## To: IFCC Full and Affiliate Societies' National Representatives

Dear Colleagues,

As part of its activities, (more details can be found at the following web site: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-md/moleculardiagnosticcentresoftheifcc/>), the IFCC Committee on Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD) has proposed the creation of networks of laboratories in the field of molecular diagnostics. The C-MD thus calls for applications from clinical laboratories performing molecular diagnostic tests and that wish to be part of these networks. Applications should be sent to the IFCC Office and must use the application form attached (containing more details on how to submit the application).

These IFCC networks of "Molecular Diagnostic Centres" (MDCs) will be led by a group of "Expert laboratories" and will also include "Member laboratories" that will have different roles in specific fields of molecular diagnostics. Thus, there are two levels of participation, where MDC Expert Laboratories will be engaged at a higher level (see below) and MDC Member Laboratories will comprise other laboratories interested in service provision in a given field of molecular diagnostics.

Terms of reference of the MDCs are as follows:

- To provide a point of contact for Molecular Diagnostic Laboratories in the analysis and/or interpretation of complex analytical/clinical scenarios.
- To participate in international studies involving the evaluation of new methodological approaches.

Briefly, MDC Expert Laboratories will have as an objective to act as a point of reference within a special area of interest within the IFCC MDC network. Laboratories may participate or show leadership in one or more of the following areas within a special area of interest (i.e. disease category):

- Offer expert advice on the conduct and interpretation of molecular diagnostic tests.
- Act as a point of reference for analysis of difficult samples.
- Assay optimization.
- Provision of control samples.
- Provision of sequence data to better characterize disease loci.
- Expertise on genotype/phenotype correlations.
- Participate in development of reference methods and evaluation of materials.
- Participate in evaluation of new methodologies.

MDC Member Laboratories will access to the mailing list of all members of their network for their area of interest and will be invited to participate in their respective network activities, as well as having access to the expertise of MDC Expert Laboratories in their field.

We are asking each National Society for their collaboration in order to distribute the call for applications to their members along with this cover letter. **Deadline for application is February 12, 2016.**

We thank you for your collaboration,

Prof Ian Young  
Chair, IFCC Scientific Division  
[I.Young@qub.ac.uk](mailto:I.Young@qub.ac.uk)

Prof Debs Payne  
Chair Committee on Molecular Diagnostics  
[debs\\_payne@yahoo.com](mailto:debs_payne@yahoo.com)