

The IFCC Executive Board has responded to the interest towards the Geriatric Laboratory Medicine field, by creating a new Task Force whose aim will be to improve knowledge and understanding of key changes in physiology and pathophysiology that occur in elderly subjects and the impact that these may have on laboratory medicine parameters.

The Objectives of the Task Force are:

1. To conduct a literature review of laboratory medicine in geriatric populations
2. To write and publish a review article on the impact of ageing on laboratory medicine parameters
3. To undertake three specific literature based projects of importance to laboratory medicine in geriatric subjects. These projects will be selected in association with a partner clinical organization and may include:
 - Reference intervals for key laboratory medicine parameters
 - The impact of drugs commonly prescribed to geriatric subjects on metabolism and the consequences for laboratory medicine parameters
 - New biomarkers of ageing and/or specific disorders found in geriatric subjects
 - Clinical guidelines for the investigation of one or more disorders occurring in geriatric populations

Delivery:

1. TF-GLM will publish a general review on the impact of ageing on laboratory medicine parameters
2. TF-GLM will publish a scientific article at the conclusion of each specific project
3. TF-GLM will seek to provide speakers and symposia at an international congress of laboratory medicine and geriatric medicine
4. TF-GLM will produce simple educational support materials (e.g. on-line learning module) to assist trainees in laboratory medicine to understand the impact of ageing