



Annual Report 2006

Highlights of the Year

- “XI Congress of the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology”
April 29 - May 2, 2006,
Damascus Syria
- Abbott Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics presented to Professor Dennis Lo from Hong Kong during the “XVII COLABIOCLI Congress, April 4 -7 2006, Asunción, Paraguay.
- 4th Course on Clinical Molecular Biology, Milano, Italy
July 4 - 8 , 2006
- Guidelines on the Danube, G-I-N/WHO Regional Symposium and Workshop on Evidence-based Guidelines. An international workshop organized by the Hungarian TUDOR Network and the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO under the auspices of Guidelines International Network. Workshop formally supported by IFCC and SIGN.
October 11-14, 2006, Budapest, Hungary
- The 6th FESCC Continuous Post-graduate Course in Clinical Chemistry
November 11 - 12 , 2006, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- New Layout of the IFCC Web site

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Executive Board of the IFCC this year developed a Mission Statement that reads:

“Our mission is to be the leading organization in the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine worldwide. Through leadership and innovation in science and education we will strive to enhance the scientific level and quality of medical diagnosis and therapy for patients throughout the world. We will build on the professionalism of our members to provide quality services to patients. We will aim to communicate effectively with our members, other health care professionals and the general

public to ensure that knowledge of our excellent scientific and educational achievements is known throughout the world. We will always focus on scientific standards, publications, education and communications. We will communicate effectively through a variety of electronic means. We will hold outstanding congresses and conferences to bring the efforts of the IFCC to the global community.”

This year we looked at our vision for the IFCC. There were many excellent suggestions that arose from our deliberations, but we chose the most important to concentrate on over the next two years:

- 1) Developing integrated projects so that the work that is done by the Scientific Division (SD) in establishing reference methods and materials will be integrated with the other Divisions. The Education and Management Division (EMD) will assist with educational materials. A timely example of this integration is the change in unitage and nomenclature for HbA1c. The EMD together with the SD will develop brochures that will assist clinicians and their patients in understanding these “science-based” changes. The Communications and Publications Division (CPD) will be sure that information about these changes will be posted on our web site and disseminated as widely as possible. The Congress and Conference Division (CCD) will ensure that meetings contain sessions devoted to the newest work from the SD. Thus, the loop will be completed.
- 2) Improving public relations is of high priority. We must work, through CPD, to make members of our Member Societies fully aware of IFCC activities. According to current WHO data, fully 80% of diagnoses are based on lab results. We need to work with physicians to enable them to understand our role in their success with patient diagnoses and therapies. Likewise, we need to make the global community of present and future patients understand our role.
- 3) Increasing our educational programs We will develop educational programs that involve not only our Member Societies, but clinicians and patients as well. We must continue to develop many specialized educational programs, such as the one in evidence-based medicine. The IFCC should develop monographs related to such specialized topics.
- 4) Assisting Developing Countries will be a priority. One of the critical needs of those of our Member Societies that qualify as “developing countries” is improvement of analytical results. The EMD is developing a strategic plan to show how this goal can best be reached. We will also strengthen our Visiting Lecturer program and our Professional Scientific Exchange Program. These programs are important in helping developing nations learn about new and better approaches to our discipline.
- 5) Reflecting better the fact that the term “Laboratory Medicine” is part of the name of our organization. We should seek areas in which we can expand our scientific activities, such as in Microbiology and Virology. The SD should set up Working Groups to deal with these expansions.

I have visited many Member Societies during 2006. I have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and their willingness to learn new areas of Laboratory Medicine, ranging from management issues to pure science, and to exciting new areas such as In Vitro Fertilization.

I am pleased to announce two new awards. One is a new IFCC Conference that will be supported by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a division of Johnson & Johnson, (US) every other year. The overall title will be "Diagnosis and the Clinical Laboratory."

The second is an award to be offered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (US). This IFCC/NIST Award will be to honor an individual who has made unique contributions to the advancement of reference methods and/or reference materials, thereby improving the quality of clinical diagnostics and promoting internationally-recognized and accepted equivalence of measurements and traceability to appropriate measurement standards.

Jocelyn M. Hicks

President

EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB)

The year 2006 was the first year of office for the new Executive Board. The first EB meeting was held in Asuncion, Paraguay from 3-4 April, 2006 prior the XVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), which gave EB members a possibility to attend the congress. The second meeting was held in Chicago, USA on July 21-22, 2006 prior the AACC meeting. The third EB meeting was held in the Milano office November 13-15, 2006.

EB has discussed on several occasions how to enhance public relations and how to activate IFCC membership in the activities of the Federation. For this purpose a letter was sent to National Representatives of the Full Members and to the Presidents of the Full Members, reminding them of their Role and Responsibilities.

A letter has been sent to National Representatives of the Full Members and to the Presidents of the Full Members asking for the annual reports of the National Societies. 22 reports were received to be included in the IFCC Annual Report 2006.

Significant milestones were reported for a number of National Societies:

The Association of Clinical Laboratory Directors and Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists in Nicosia - Cyprus (ACLDBCLS) was approved unanimously as a new Full Member by the IFCC membership via a mail ballot. They are warmly welcomed into the Federation.

The National Societies of Canada and Switzerland celebrated their 50th anniversaries in 2006 and the IFCC plaques were presented to them at their national meetings. The Danish Society's 50th anniversary was celebrated during the Nordic Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Copenhagen on June 14-17, 2006 and a plaque was presented during the opening ceremonies of the Congress.

The Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine celebrated its 60th Anniversary. IFCC President Jocelyn Hicks sent her greetings to the Hungarian Society on behalf of IFCC.

The Professional Scientific Exchange Program is an important program, which provides scholarships for young colleagues to be trained in science, new technologies, and management. In 2006, a total of six scholarships were granted to recipients from China, Croatia, Turkey, Spain and Nigeria. The training of the scholars took

place in USA, UK, Austria and the Netherlands. The EB considers this program important for the young scientists in the field and for their future in the profession. IFCC hopes that National Societies will promote this program and encourage their young colleagues to use the opportunities of this program. The program enables new competencies for young colleagues that will be beneficial for both their home institutions and the profession in their country. Please, view the IFCC website for more information (<http://www.ifcc.org>).

Päivi Laitinen
Secretary IFCC

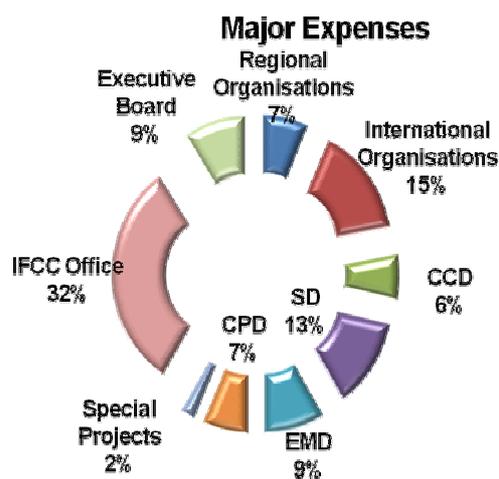
TREASURER'S REPORT

Despite the fact that we did not have any major income in 2006 as there was no principal congress which usually brings sizable income to IFCC, we were able to manage and survive without the need to take money from our reserves. In addition, the performance of our investments was not as good as one would expect due to the collapse of shares during June through September 2006.

On a positive note, we made good progress in Full & Corporate member payments. All corporate Members have paid their dues for 2006. In addition, most Full Members have met their commitments and paid their dues for 2006 and some for previous years.

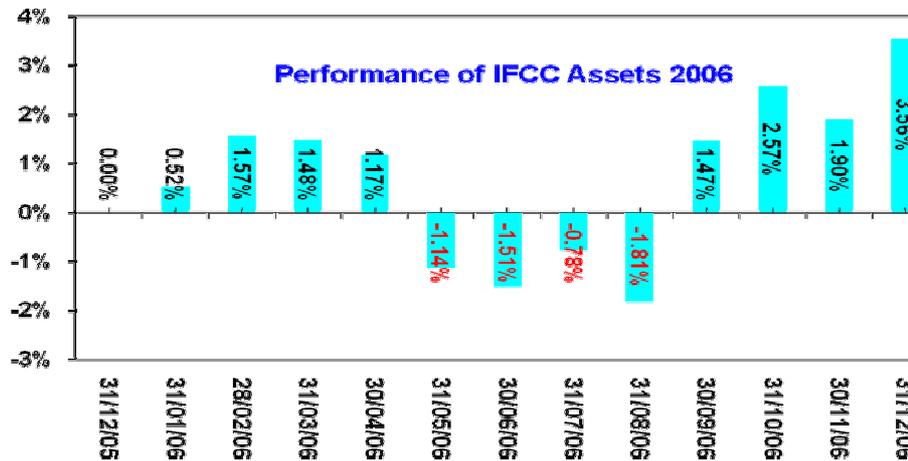


Supporting divisions was a major goal for the EB of IFCC and as you can gather from the figures most of the expenses were allocated to cover activities of the IFCC Divisions. IFCC supported two regional congresses, the COLABIOCLI Congress in Paraguay, the first week of April and the AFCB Congress in Damascus, Syria, the last week of April. The support was through sponsorship of IFCC officers who participated actively in both Congresses by giving excellent lectures.



The IFCC Financial Advisory Committee is pleased with the present Auditors, Humphreys & Gates, who perform professional auditing of IFCC accounting. New software for IFCC accounting will be used as of 2007.

Our banks, Dresdner Bank & Credit Suisse in Switzerland and Banca Intesa in Italy are cooperating well with our office and they manage our accounts with high standards and professionalism. Online banking has facilitated our task and made it easier to make transactions and to quickly understand our current status.



Looking forward for 2007 and 2008 and I am hoping we will see increased income from the upcoming congresses. More focused spending on key goals will be the aim of IFCC during 2007 & 2008.

Ghassan Shannan
Treasurer

Awards Committee

Members of the 2006-2008 Awards Committee conducting the nominations and selection of awardees were: Chairman Vladimir Palicka (IFCC Vice-President, CZ), Carl Burtis (USA), Rosa Sierra Amor (ME), Muhammed Shaarawy (EG), Christopher Lam (HK).

IFCC/Abbott Award for Distinguished Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics

This award honors an individual who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine throughout the world.

In 2006, **Professor Yuk Ming Dennis Lo, MD** from the Department of Chemical Pathology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong was selected to receive the 2006 IFCC/Abbott award for significant contributions to molecular diagnostics.

This award honors an individual who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of molecular biology and its application in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide. Professor Lo has made important, unique and origi-

nal contributions to the new field of plasma nucleic acids where he has made fundamental biological observations on their biology and has developed new and exciting clinical applications based on these observations.

Professor Lo was presented with the Award during the XVII COLABIOCLI Congress that will be held on April 4-7, 2006 in Asunción, Paraguay.



A call for the nominations for the Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics has been sent out and the deadline was Dec.31, 2006. This Award will be presented to the Awardee during the EuroMedLab Congress in Amsterdam in June 2007.

New Awards

1. Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care (supported by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics)

The award honors an individual who has made unique contributions in Laboratory Medicine, its application in improving patient care and having a world-wide impact in clinical medicine. This Award is sponsored by Ortho Diagnostics and will be bestowed at IFCC International Congresses.

2. IFCC/NIST Distinguished Award for Standards in Laboratory Medicine

The award honors an individual who has made unique contributions to the advancement of reference methods and/or reference materials for laboratory medicine, thereby improving the quality of clinical diagnostics and therapies, reducing costs of patient care, and promoting internationally recognized and accepted equivalence of measurements and traceability to appropriate measurement standards.

This Award is sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and will be bestowed at IFCC International Congresses. The 1st award will be bestowed in 2008 in Fortaleza.

In addition, calls for nominations will be globally distributed for the following awards that will be presented in 2008:

1. IFCC/Bayer Award for Outstanding Contributions in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
2. IFCC/Bayer Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service
3. IFCC/Beckman Coulter Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education
4. IFCC/Abbott Award for Distinguished Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics

Vladimir Palicka
Chair Awards Committee

FULL MEMBERS

MEMBER SOCIETIES

BELGIUM

Société Belge de Chimie Clinique (BVKC/SBCC)

Organization of the National BVKC/SBCC Symposium "*(Lack of) standardization and efficient use of clinical chemistry*", Ghent, May 11th 2006, with the following speakers and topics:

- Dr. M. Langlois, AZ St-Jan, Bruges
Opening of the symposium
- Prof. L. Thienpont, University of Ghent
Standardization of cortisol: the future is bright, the future is not
- Prof. J. Delanghe, University of Ghent
Problems regarding creatinine standardization and its clinical consequences.
- Prof. C. Weykamp, Winterswijk, The Netherlands
Worldwide standardization of HbA1c.
- Prof. P. Goubau, Université Louvain
Follow up of internal quality control in infectious serology: a pragmatic approach.
- Response and viewpoint of the IVD industry
- Prof. P. Wallemacq, Université Louvain
Conclusions and closing of the symposium

The board members P. Wallemacq, V. Blaton, and M. Langlois participated in the Scientific Committee of the 23th CORATA Symposium, Bruges, October 24-27, 2006, co-organized by the Belgian Society of Clinical Chemistry.

The BVKC/SBCC Board approved the IFCC REFERENCE PROCEDURE FOR AMYLASE MEASUREMENT

The BVKC/SBCC Board raised some points of concern about the IFCC RECOMMENDED STANDARDIZATION OF THE NOMENCLATURE AND UNITAGE OF HbA1c in a letter to Jocelyn Hicks, IFCC President:

Dear Prof. Hicks,

On behalf of the Board members of the Belgian Society of Clinical Chemistry (SBCC-BVKC), I would like to forward our concern about the IFCC recommendation.

As you know the AACC recently voted against the proposed IFCC standard for HbA1c, and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) has asked to delay adoption of the standard until they have completed a major clinical trial evaluating the feasibility of reporting HbA1c as "mean blood glucose". They believe that the proposal of IFCC to change the test units and to move ahead with this standard would be "devastating to diabetes care worldwide" .

Considering the position of the ADA, we believe that it is inappropriate to answer until these concerns have been addressed. If we vote yes and ADA says no, we contribute to create a serious problem on a global scale. If we vote no, we are potentially blocking something which might be useful.

Therefore, the SBCC-BVKC Board (IFCC National Representative) decided to abstent from voting in this case.

We hope that our decision will encourage a constructive collaboration between the major groups involved in this project.

The BVKC/SBCC contributed to the distribution of the IFCC journal *Clin Chem Lab Med*, and also *Acta Clinica Belgica*, via a subscription to these journals included in the annual membership.

The BVKC/SBCC is represented, via participation of the Board members, in various local and regional workshops, scientific committees, and working groups.

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Society Clinical Laboratory

14-TH MEETING OF BALKAN CLINICAL LABORATORY FEDERATION
SOFIA, 27-30.09.2006

The Meeting took place in the National Palace of Culture – Sofia and was presided by Prof. Kamen Tzatchev. It involved 405 registered and active participants from 18 countries:

- Nine Balkan countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Turkey).
- Nine Western countries (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland and USA).
- The scientific program started with an opening lecture by Prof. Victor Blaton – FESCC President on “CARDIOPROTECTION WITH HDL” followed by outline of the HISTORY, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF BCLF by Prof. Stoyan Danev, founding President of the Federation.
- As a whole the programme included 35 plenary lectures, one round table discussion seven workshops and 104 poster presentations.

The central theme of the Meeting – QUALITY ASSURANCE was presented by a Symposium with six lectures, a Round Table Discussion with representatives from IFCC (Prof. D.Mazziotta), Great Britain (Dr. D.Bullock), INSTAND-Germany (Prof. H.Reinauer), 6 Balkan Countries and 10 posters. Special emphasis was laid on the problems of TRACEBILITY (Prof. D.Mazziotta and Dr. D.Bullock) and on total quality management and EQA of the routine parameters of clinical chemistry, hematology, hormones, tumor markers, urinary analysis (qualitative and quantitative) and glycated hemoglobin. In this respect the Bulgarian External Quality Assessment Scheme with its experience of 12 years was highly appreciated as the model to be followed by all the countries in the Balkan region.

The second cardinal theme that attracted great interest was atherosclerosis and its complications: acute coronary syndromes (ACS), stroke and peripheral artery diseases. To overcome the main “culprit” of these conditions LDL-cholesterol Prof.

Seidel obtains optimal results by combining drug therapy (statins and inhibitors of intestinal LDL absorption) with LDL-apheresis, where Prof. Blaton applies as additional approaches by enhancing HDL synthesis and selective inhibition of endothelial adhesive molecules. Of great interest are the NMR methods to define the high and low-risk subclasses of LDL and HDL (Bairaktari) as well as the assaying of inflammatory risk factors (CRP, IMA, ICAM, VCAM, PECAM and homocystein etc.) by Prof. Wieland, Prof. Tzoncheva and several investigators from Serbia, Turkey and Greece. In this connection additional markers of heart failure (BNP), stroke (PMN-elastase – Cozoiharu, ADMA – Ozben) etc merit special attention.

The third theme of great importance was presentation of advanced instruments, like “OMIC” ones owing to their high speed, resolution and specificity to detect numerous toxins, drugs and drug metabolites as well as endogenous pathologic products. Of special interest were the lectures of Prof. Oellerich (Germany) on the application of an entire system of “OMIC” methods (proteomic, metabolomic, genomic etc) to perform TDM and to detect high-risk patients, like too slow or too fast metabolizers that demand individual schemes of treatment and Prof. Svinarov (Sofia) on the great possibilities of tandem mass-spectrometry, including quadripole instruments. These ideas coincide with the ones formulated at the Third Meeting dedicated to PERSONALIZED MEDICINE, which was running by the same time on the Greek island of Santorini.

An exhibition with 32 stands on laboratory equipment took place.

Last but not least the 14-th BCLF Meeting witnessed excellent lectures on osteoporosis (Prof. Schmidt-Gayk), new immunologic markers of prostate disease (Dr. Jarrige, Switzerland), capillary electrophoresis (Jean-Francois, France), fluorescence flow cytometry (Tornov, Germany), new molecular markers of cancer (DNA mismatch repair in carcinoma (Psofaki et al., Greece) etc.

The social programme of the Meeting offered additional means to the attendants to overcome still existing differences and to get better acquainted with the enormous cultural and genetic diversity of Bulgaria as a typical Balkan country. Even a short visit to the National Historic Museum disclosed golden treasures dating back to 5 000 BC (the Varna necropolis), 2 000 to 1 000 BC (the numerous Thracian tombs) and to 500 to 900 AD (the protobulgarian and early Bulgarian treasures).

The next BCLF Meeting will take place in Antalya (Turkey), 4-7.09.2007, situated on the Mediterranean, quite near to Catal Hayuk – the cite of one of oldest human civilization (about 6 000 BC).

CANADA

Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC)

Special events: Our year long celebration of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemist's 50th anniversary included distribution of commemorative letter openers to all members and sponsors and the creation of a special collector's edition of *Clinical Biochemistry* focusing on the history of the Society and the development of clinical chemistry in Canada over the last 50 years. Celebrations culminated at our Annual meeting in Victoria, British Columbia in June. The highlight of the celebrations was the screening of the “anniversary video” which debuted to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience at the Opening Ceremonies. Special recognition and thanks goes to

The Archives Committee who worked tirelessly to create this special, informative and reflective video tracing the history of the Society and its founders. We were thrilled to have 15 of the 35 previous presidents of the Society attend this landmark meeting. (Photo attached). Our members were touched by the special anniversary presentations by Dr. Carl Burtis on behalf of the IFCC and Dr. Gary Meyers on behalf of the AACC. For only the eighth time in our Society's history, one of our members Arlene Crowe (a CSCC Past-President), was named an Honorary Member of CSCC for her outstanding contributions to the CSCC and clinical chemistry.

To salute our 50th anniversary, our annual meeting conference planning committee chose the theme "*Looking back...reaching forward*" and put together an outstanding scientific program which included 4 symposia, 12 roundtables, 4 Sunday workshops and 54 posters. There were over 300 registrants and 150 paying delegates. In addition to significant sponsorship of the conference, the exhibit hall was sold out.

Education: This year's CSCC Annual Traveling Lectureship year featured Dr. Carl Wittwer, from the University of Utah. During the months of September and October, Dr. Wittwer visited 6 cities across Canada. In most of the host cities, Dr. Wittwer's presentation on Molecular Diagnostics formed the keynote address for a local mini symposium.

Another major education event will be the fall CSCC Lecture in Critical Care Medicine which is presented at one site and broadcast over the internet so that members across the country as well as in the USA can view the slides and hear the lecture. Details of this year's lectureship are still to be finalized.

Communications: Our website, www.csc.ca, has been completely updated into a content management system with all information integrated with the membership database. This major rebuilding now allows our Society to more effectively serve our membership and include more information online.

The *CSCC Newsletter* continues to provide news of the members, small scientific articles, and notices of importance.

Our journal *Clinical Biochemistry* is now the number two journal in our field. The impact factor for this journal has risen again and for 2005 was rated at 2.359. We had a major change in the editorial office as the new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Edgard Delvin replaced Dr. Khosrow Adeli earlier this year.

International affairs: Dr. Minodora Dobreanu, the President of the Romanian Association for Medical Laboratories presented at the CSCC Annual meeting as the recipient of the International Visitor Award sponsored by Roche Diagnostics. Her talk provided delegates with some fascinating insights into clinical chemistry in Romania.

Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (CACB): The CACB administers the accreditation of the Training Programs in universities across Canada, as well as conducting regular accreditation visits to each program. It also provides annual revisions to the Syllabus used by the students in the programs and administers the credentialing and examinations to Specialty Certification in Clinical Biochemistry. This past year four candidates sat the examination and three were successful.

The Academy also administers a Professional Development Program that accredits meetings and allocates credits to CSCC members and Fellows toward maintenance of competence. Over 120 biochemists are participating in the program.

**Current and Past Presidents of the CSCC
who attended the 2006 CSCC Annual Meeting**



Row 1: Sherry Perkins, Lynn Allen, Connie Prosser, Albert Fraser

Row 2: Jim Wesenberg, Jean-Claude Forest, Lee Wright

Row 3: Arlene Crowe, Richard Pearce, Matt McQueen

Row 4: John Nixon, Paul Desjardins, David Seccombe, Kent Dooley, John Krahn

Absent: Cliff Harris

GERMANY

**Deutsche Vereinte Gesellschaft für Klinische Chemie und
Laboratoriumsmedizin e.V. (DGKL)**

German United Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The "Staudinger Symposium" was held from June 25 to 27, 2006, in the former Baroque monastery „Kloster Banz“ (Bavaria). During this biannual meeting, young scientists from university and non-university research institutions headed by members of the DGKL presented their latest research results.

During the "Staudinger Symposium", the Award „Biochemical Analytics 2006" was presented to Matthias Mann, MD, PhD, Max Planck Institute in Martinsried (Munich), for his outstanding contributions to mass spectrometry-based proteome analytics. The award consists of a sum of 50.000 Euro. This DGKL Award represents one of the most prestigious prizes in the medical sciences in Germany and has a long tradition. In the past, it has been awarded to five Nobel laureates (Kary B. Mullis, Cesar Milstein, Georges Köhler, Frederick Sanger, and Walter Gilbert) who were awarded long before they got the Nobel Prize.

Further Awards: Professor Axel M. Gressner, MD, RWTH Aachen, was awarded the "Felix-Hoppe-Seyler-Prize 2006" on October 1st, 2006, during the National Meeting of the society in Mannheim. Dr. Gressner is honored for his outstanding achievements in the research on liver fibrosis.

Christian Götting, PhD, Ruhr-Universität Bochum at Bad Oeynhausen, was awarded the "Ivar-Trautschold Prize" for young investigators during the "Staudinger Symposium", for his work on the characterization and pathobiochemical significance of humane xylosyl transferases.

The DGKL Annual Meeting 2006 was for the first time held jointly with the Austrian and Swiss Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in the "Rosengarten Congress Center", Mannheim (October 1st to 4th, 2006, Congress President: Prof. Michael Neumaier, MD, Klinikum Mannheim, University of Heidelberg). The Executive Board of the DGKL has decided to hold the Annual Meeting every second year in Mannheim. In the years between, the Annual Meetings will take place in various locations in Germany and Austria, especially in university cities.

During the Annual Meeting, the General Assembly of the Membership was held on October 2nd, 2006. The following DGKL Board members were newly elected: President: Karl Lackner, MD, University of Mainz, begin of term May 2007, successor of Professor Knut Kleesiek, University of Bochum at Bad Oeynhausen; Vice President: Rudolf Tauber, MD, Charité University Hospital Berlin. Professor Tauber will also be the Congress President of IFCC-WorldLab 2011 in Berlin; Secretary: Klaus Kohse, MD, PhD, Klinikum Oldenburg, as successor of Professor Wolfgang Vogt, Munich; Treasurer: Heinrich Patscheke, MD, Klinikum Karlsruhe, who was re-elected again and confirmed as successful Treasurer of the last 10 years.

DGKL will establish contacts with the German Diabetes Association and the Dutch Association of Clinical Chemistry in order to organize and coordinate, together with these scientific societies, the introduction of the new units of HbA1c.

An extraordinary Board meeting with extensive discussions about the strategic and organizational planning for the Berlin IFCC WorldLab 2011 will be held in Berlin in

November 2006. Participants will be the Congress President, Professor Tauber, Professor Renz, and the DGKL Board.

FINLAND

Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry (FSCC)

FSCC Board 2006: Jarkko Ihalainen, chairman, Kari Mattila, vice chairman, Virva Huotari, secretary, Kari Savolainen, treasurer, Kristiina Kainulainen, member, Tomi Koski, member, Harri Laitinen, member.

At the end of October 2006 the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry had 336 active members, 115 members who have retired and 21 institutional members.

The annual Spring meeting was held in cooperation with the Finnish Association of Clinical Biochemists in Helsinki in April 6-7, 2006. The total number of attendants was 120, of which 17 were lecturers. The topics of the meeting were Reference ranges, Quality control, Autovalidation, Pandemic infections, Drug analysis and Diabetes.

The annual Fall meeting will be held in 8-10 November as a visit from Helsinki to Tallinn, Estonia, with a lecture program. The topics of the meeting are Education at the field of clinical chemistry, Laboratory automation and Current topics in clinical chemistry. A visit to the laboratory of Regionalhaigla -hospital in Tallinn will be organized. At the moment 52 participants have registered for the meeting.

The society has continued to publish a Finnish Journal of laboratory medicine called Kliinlab. Totally six issues and approximately 130 pages dealing with clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine will be published this year. The web-pages are <http://www.skky.fi/suomi/kliinlablehti.php?file=magazine>.

The 2008 Nordic Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will be held in Helsinki, Finland. The preparations have been active all the year. The scientific committee was organized in October.

Fifth Clinical Chemist of the Year was Allan Rajamäki.

FRANCE

Société Française de Biologie Clinique (SFBC) French Society of Clinical Biology

Organization of SFBC: In 2006, The SFBC was under chairmanship of Prof Philippe Gillery (PG), who continued to steer the French national society through its evolving roles within the regional and international Federations. In addition to its chairman, the SFBC-EB comprises a president elect Pr Alain Legrand, a general secretary Dr N Jacob, an assistant general secretary Dr I Aimone Gastin, a treasurer Dr F Felden,

two SD co-chairs Pr P Carayon and Dr R Garnotel, an Editor in chief for the Annales de Biologie Clinique Pr JL Dondt, and a webmaster Dr R Couderc (<http://www.sfbc.asso.fr>).

The Committee on International Affairs is assisting the SFBC-EB in promoting active partnerships between all the IFCC full members, liaising and collaborating with IFCC and its constituent divisions and representing the SFBC expertise at the international level. In addition of the SFBC President-IFCC representative and president elect, members are: Dr Bernard Gouget, (FESCC Representative), Dr Simone Zerah (EC4 Representative), Dr Bernard Poggi (IFP Representative), Pr Gérard Siest; Pr Jacques Bienvenu .

Scientific activities: The Scientific Committee (SC), aims are to establish and to improve the standards for scientific, clinical and technical aspects of best laboratory practices. SC plays an important role for establishing the bridge between basic, applied science and clinical care. Formal links are recognized with INSERM, HAS and AFSSAPS. Currently active SC-working parties are:

Working Groups

Allergy
Quality Insurance and Metrology
Specific Markers of Tobacco
Kidney function and renal diseases
Hs CRP
Std Description of Analyzers
HepaticFibrosis
Biological Markers for. Alzheimer's Disease
Biol Markers of Oxidative Stress
Gonadic peptides
Proteomics
Vitamin D and PTH

Chair

Dr J-Ch RENVERSEZ
Dr Michel DUMONTET
Dr Nelly JACOB
Dr JP CRISTOL
Dr Rémy COUDERC
Dr Anne GRUSON
Dr Michel VAUBOURDOLLE
Dr Armand PERRET-LIAUDET
Dr Patrice THEROND
Dr Najiba LAHLOU
Pr Sylvain LEHMANN
Dr JC SOUBERBIELLE

SC-Task forces

Trace Elements
Enzymology
Standardization of HbA1c assays
Nanotechnologies and nanomedicine

Chair

Dr François BARUTHIO
Dr JM LESSINGER
Pr Philippe GILLERY
Dr Bernard GOUGET

SFBC and IFCC collaborations: SFBC Members are strongly involved in the IFCC working parties and activities.

IFCC-SD: Scientific Division member (SD-EC): Philippe Gillery; Reference Systems of Enzymes (C-RSE): G Féraud, vice chair 2003-05, corresp member 2006; Point of Care Testing (C-POCT): A Feuillu, corresp member; Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM): A Vassault, corresp member; Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL): J Henry, member 2005-2007.

IFCC-EMD: Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM); J Watine, member

IFCC-CPD: eJIFCC (ISSN number (1650-3414) and WG-eJIFCC: Ph. Gillery, member; IFCC News and WG-IFCC News: D Gruson, member; B.Gouget, ex IFCC-CPD chair

BIPM- IFCC JCTLM: B Gouget

SFBC scientific activities: The SFBC is organizing National Annual Scientific Meetings the second week of November at the CNIT Paris-La Défense (FR) .*"La Journée du Conseil Scientifique"* (The Annual SFBC Scientific Committee conference) is dedicated this year to topics developed by the SFBC working parties - tabacology, nephrology, hepatitis fibrosis- with also a plenary session on Molecular Imaging.

SFBC-AWARD (Prix SFBC) for significant contributions in oncology Diagnostics 2006.

Dr Florence de Fraipont, MD, from the department of cancer biotherapy and biological therapy department, at the Grenoble' University-Hospital (FR), has been selected to receive the 2006 SFBC/Award for significant contributions to "Molecular Biology in estimating biomarkers of tumour progression".

.*"La Journée du Comité d'Interface"* INSERM / Clinical Biology, (Annual SFBC-INSERM Joint symposium) on Metabolic Diseases will be held with two symposia respectively on Mitochondrial diseases and Lysosomal diseases.

Education and Post graduate training: SFBC is organizing at the national and regional levels educational programmes, workshops and exchange programmes. In 2006, one of them is a part of the three days international congress: "Journées internationales de Biologie", Paris (FR).

Annales de Biologie Clinique (ABC): The SFBC gives the grant to the publisher John Libbey to publish French recommendations, position papers, scientific reviews, general reviews, original articles, technical note, clinical cases, books reviews, news and guest editorials. The copyright of these contributions lies with the SFBC; 6 issues are published per year (http://www.john-libbey-eurotext.fr/fr/revues/bio_rech/abc/sommaire.md)

SFBC participations at FESCC and IFCC meetings: SFBC representatives were very active at the IFCC meetings and others regional or national meetings:

- **13th Balkan Federation meeting in TIRANA (Albania)-October 2005 Conference on:** ehealth and telecommunications : major challenges for the laboratory scientists (BG) and meeting with the FESCC President

- **AMBC (March 2006)**

meeting with the IFCC President and lecture on Nanotechnology based diagnosis: impact for the laboratory (BG)

- **COLABIOCLI meeting, Asuncion Paraguay, 29-31 Mars**

meetings with COLABIOCLI and FESCC

Communication: *E-Health and Telebiology: toward higher goals* (BG)

- **XI congress of the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology, Damas 29 Apr- 2 May 06 (PG-BG)**

Communication: Patient and medication safety: a laboratory medicine perspective (BG)

meeting with the French speaking countries of the AFCB.

-**XX journées Nationales de biologie Clinique, Hammamet 26-27 Mai 2006**

(A Legrand, BG) co-chair of the session on Avian Influenza

- **33^e Congresso Brasileiro de Analises Clinicas Juin 4-8 2006 Curitiba (BR)-**

Invited lectures (Ph Gillery) on:

Diabetes mellitus and clinical laboratory: what is new in the diagnosis and monitoring?

Diabetes, obesity and dyslipidemia approach: clinical laboratory markers for diabetes mellitus and its relations with obesity, dyslipidemias and risks for cardiovascular diseases

- **Fédération Internationale Pharmacie (FIP)**(B Poggi)66th International Congress of FIP 25-31 August 2006, Salvador Bahia, Brazil

- **5th Croatian Congress, 17-20 Octobre**

Communication : ehealth for achieving patient safety through information technologies

International scientific or international advisory committees: Euromedlab Amsterdam 2007 International Scientific Advisory Board: B Gouget: International scientific committee Worldlab , Fortaleza 2008: Ph Gillery; Euromedlab 2009 Innsbruck International Scientific Advisory Board: B Gouget

IFCC newsletter and LMI: The SFBC members wrote many news in the IFCC newsletter. A FESCC corner editorial was established in LMI edited by the SFBC-FESCC representative:

ISRAEL

Israel Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

During the last few years the ISCLS has expanded and includes most Clinical laboratory disciplines, and we are negotiating to include the Clinical microbiologists.

The Society had its annual meeting last February. The meeting included topics as Diabetes Mellitus in the third millennium, Targeted cancer therapy, Regulation and function of heparanase in cancer progression, MRD in hematological malignancies and more.

We had one symposium during 2006 and the topic was Hepatitis C.

We have conducted six scientific roundtables, discussing specific professional problems: eGFR and creatinine standardization, measurement of Total Protein in urine, bone markers, managing QC of POCT, the Protein C path and rationalizing the use of laboratory tests.

JAPAN

Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)

The current JSCC Executive Board Members are as follows:

President: Professor Naotaka Hamasaki, M.D., Ph.D. (He will serve out the presidency at the end of March, 2007)

Board of Executive Members: Professor Kazuhiko Nakahara, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Masayuki Totani, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Hakuo Takahashi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus Nobuyuki Amino, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. Zensuke Ogawa, Ph.D., Professor Masato Maekawa, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Tsutomu Nobori, M.D., Ph.D. (He will be

the President of JSCC from April 1, 2007), Dr. Mitsuo Sekiguchi, Ph.D., Dr. Hideo Misaki, Ph.D., Dr. Yusi Matsuo, Ph.D., Professor Naoki Watanabe, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Yoshiaki Katayama, Ph.D, Professor Susumu Osawa, Ph.D.

Scientific Activities: The JSCC holds an annual scientific meeting and a summer seminar in a year. The 46th JSCC annual meeting was held in Tokyo from September 7-9, 2006, under the presidency of Professor Masayuki Totani. In the meeting, two plenary lectures, four symposia, five luncheon seminars, an educational workshop and 91 oral presentations were presented.

The 25th summer-seminar was held in Sapporo from August 3-5, 2006, under the presidency of Dr. Hitoshi Chiba. In the seminar, three plenary lectures, five scientific seminars, two educational workshops and six educational lectures were presented. The 47th JSCC annual meeting and the 26th summer-seminars have been scheduled in Osaka with the presidency of Professor Shunichi Kumagai and in Siga with the presidency of Professor Tsutomu Nobori, respectively.

The JSCC has been cooperated with the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) in order to accelerate the standardization of laboratory data in Japan as well as worldwide.

MEXICO

Asociación Mexicana de Bioquímica Clínica (AMBC)

IFCC National Representative: Ma. Antonieta Garza-Galindo; COLABIOCLI EB Member: Mario Garcia-Sanchez; COLABIOCLI Education Committee: Domingo Sanchez-Francia

Scientific and academic activities: XXIX National's congress in clinical chemistry in Acapulco, Gro. with the auspices of IFCC and COLABIOCLI. The scientific program included 3 plenary lectures, 17 symposia, 10 conferences, and 4 Round Tables discussions, where 99 speakers from Mexico, Colombia, France, Germany, USA and Canada participated. Also, the AACC Pediatric and Materno-Fetal Division, and several IDV companies sponsored Symposia, Lunch round tables and scientific Workshops. The Bayer Diagnostics Division award, Dr Moreira award to Quality, and T.J. Oriarte awards for best poster presentations were provided. In total, 1089 attendees participated at this meeting (ref. Supp. Bioquimia No 100, 2006, Lab Medica en Espanol, and IFCC eNews).

XVIII EQAS annual meeting (approx 600 laboratories) included a teleconference sponsored by Bio Rad Latin America on Total error in the clinical laboratory.

EQAS program of the AMBC solicited the recognition of the Mexican Entity of Accreditation under ISO 43-1/ILAC G13, becoming the first EQAS program in Mexico endorsed by this organization in Mexico.

200 hours Courses (Diplomats) in Diagnostic bacteriology and anti-micro bacterial susceptibility and in hematology with the recognition of the FES UNAM.

Courses (20 hours credit) on coagulation, immunoalergology, criminalistic testing, organic and other fluids, antibacterial sensitivity, urinalysis, mycology, advance immunobacteriology, advance parasitology, metrology and trueness, hematology, basic molecular biology techniques and clinical application.

Courses on ISO 1589:2003 organized in conjunction with the Mexican Entity of Accreditation www.ema.org.mx in four cities around the country, Mexico City, Veracruz, Leon and Guadalajara.

Web page upgraded: www.ambc.org.mx and Distance learning project for continuing education programs to reach members all around the country.

IFCC Publications: LMI en español (www.medines.com) & eIFCC News www.ifcc.org/eJNews.

BIOQUIMIA Journal, 1500 issues distributed 4 times per year was recognized by the Council of Research and Technology (CONACYT) as the first and only journal in clinical laboratory sciences published in Mexico cited national and internationally.

Member, Working Group in Laboratory Accreditation 15189:2003 / MNX EC 15189 IMNC 2006, and WG in Microbiology at the Mexican Entity of Accreditation. Full Member, Executive Board, Mexican Entity of Accreditation (2006-2009).

Member, Subcommittee 47 /ISO 15189 of the Mexican Institute of Standards and Certification (IMNC) www.se.gob.mx and Member, ISO 15189 TC212/WG 1.

IFCC VLP lecturer to Paraguay at the XVIII COLABIOCLI congress, April 3-7, 2006.

IFCC Awards committee member; associated member AQ Committee; associated member WG HbA1c; Fortaleza 2008 Organizing committee SBAC Secretary and Member, International Advisory Scientific Committee.

AMBC organized a Symposium and lecturers to attend the XVII COLABIOCLI congress in Asuncion, Paraguay April 3-7, 2006, where an Industry Workshops on QA was organized in conjunction with Bio Rad Latin America.

Mexico, represented by AMBC full member society of COLABIOCLI, was elected Member of the COLABIOCLI Executive Board in Asuncion, Paraguay (2006-04-06); and designated as Chair of the Education Committee of COLABIOCLI in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2006-08-26)

AMBC International participation as speakers and/or delegates at: AACC Annual meeting & Clinical Lab Expo, Chicago, Ill, USA; COLA First International Symposium, Baltimore MD, USA www.cola.org; V CALILAB, Buenos Aires, Argentina; XXV Congress of the Spanish Society of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Pathology, Bilbao Spain; III Congress of the Metropolitan Hospital in Caracas, Venezuela; V Congress of the Croatian Medical Biochemists Association, in Porec, Croatia; XXX FEMPAC congress, Puebla, Pue.; Mexico; International Seminar ILAC/ema, Mexico City, Mexico; and ISO 15189 TC212/WG1 meeting in Paris, France.

AMBC participation at several national forum and meetings of affiliated societies and colleges in Mexico (information published in the AMBC Bulletin).

Research Projects on EQAS programs for HbA1c and Coagulation.

Agreements with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (FES campus), University of Chiapas, Faculty of Chemistry; and University of Tamaulipas, Postgraduate program in clinical biochemistry. This collaboration included courses, visiting

lecturer programs, tutoring and mentoring programs in clinical biochemistry, with industry projects sponsorship and scientific recognition nationwide.

AMBC – Industry cooperation on continuing education included seminars on Quality topics lectured in 12 different cities in Mexico.

The first International Conference auspiced by IFCC was sponsored by Bio Rad Latin America, and televised in four countries with a total of 617 attendees in the Latin America region www.ifcc.org

NIGERIA

Association of Clinical Chemists Nigeria

The EXCO of the association have met, preparations for next years conference is on the way.

The conference comes up in August 2007.

The conference would be taking place in Ilorin, Kwara State which is in the central part of Nigeria.

The theme for the conference is "Clinical Chemistry and non-Communicable Diseases"

More details will be worked out before the end of the year.

POLAND

Polish Society for Laboratory Diagnostics

Within 10 months 5 inter-regional scientific conferences have been organized by different Divisions of the Society. These were interdisciplinary conferences dedicated to subjects like: novel biochemical markers in laboratory diagnosis, EBLM and quality and cost-effectiveness in laboratory testing, with lectures delivered by clinicians and clinical chemists and participation of medical doctors, GPs and laboratory diagnosticians. In Poland, the field of laboratory medicine collects mainly biologists, biochemists, pharmacists and very few medical doctors. All of them form a big group of laboratory diagnosticians. The important activity of our Society is to bring closer the two circles, the one of clinicians/ medical doctors and the other of laboratory diagnosticians/ clinical chemists. Our aim is to raise a dignity of the profession of clinical chemist in Poland.

Under the auspices of Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics, in cooperation with EDMA, the Polish version of Labtestsonline website is prepared. The translation into Polish of first 44 laboratory tests is almost completed.

The arrangements for the 16th Congress of Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics that will be held September next year in Wroclaw are continued.

SPAIN

Sociedad Español de Bioquímica Clínica y Patología Molecular Spanish Society for Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Biology (SEQC)

The annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of the SEQC was held in Pamplona, March 30-31 with 200 attendants. The main subjects of the meeting were:

- a) Automation models
 - b) Molecular biology of the urologic tumors
 - c) Present and future of the renal function in the laboratory
 - d) Prenatal diagnosis: Cytogenetic and molecular aspects
 - e) Information system in the clinical laboratory. Clinical validation in the post-analytical step
- VI meeting about drug monitoring and clinical toxicology. Immunosuppressors. Madrid 21st of April
 - Meeting about clinical applications of plasma proteins. Palma de Mallorca. 7-9 of June
 - Seminar about Biochemical study of the cardiac patient: from the risk to the damage. Barcelona 29th of June
 - The 2006 SEQC annual meeting was held in Bilbao, 9-11 October, with 1000 attendants
 - Statistic course held in Bilbao. 11th of October
 - Seminar about marketing in the clinical laboratory. Barcelona 15th of November
 - Seminar about updating in the biochemical study of the phospho-calcium metabolism. Madrid 23rd of November
 - Seminar about Celiac disease. Santander. 13th of December
 - Programme of continual education. Education committee
 - Programme of quality external evaluation. Quality and Accreditation Committee
 - Obituary: The SEQC president José Luis Castaño has died the 20th of December

GREAT BRITAIN

Association for Clinical Biochemistry

Current issues include: The UK accreditation body, Clinical Pathology Accreditation [CPA] is revising its standard B1, which relates to who can head a Department. Their interpretation of ISO 15189 is that the Head of a Service may not need to be medically or postgraduate scientist [MRCPath] qualified. Discussions continue. A recent report on R&D funding is recommending withdrawal of current disseminated funding that enables small scale clinical research; to be replaced with a centrally directed disbursement to larger research hubs.

The ACB has reviewed its structures, while Regional structures were broadly satisfactory, those at National level have been proposed where the Executive is more strategic, with Directors designated for particular areas e.g. science, clinical practice, finance etc. A key proposal is the change to a President, with support from a President-Elect and Past President in alternate years, this will clarify roles and responsibilities and replace the current posts of Chair and President. We anticipate these changes will enable more effective direction of activities as they relate to our operating environment as well as improving governance and accountability.

The designation Chartered Scientist [CSci] has been recommended as a mark of competence by the UK Government and is awarded by the Science Council. The ACB have had to put in place a Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures to become a recognised Awarding Body.

Professional Regulation is the subject of two government consultations: Medical: Donaldson report and Non-medical: Foster Report.

The ACB has appointed a Government Officer with the remit to: Influence Govt Policy, Direct our PR effort, Co-operate with other UK laboratory professional and trade organizations, Facilitate communication

A significant development has been a wide ranging review of Pathology services in England, but not the rest of the UK, by Lord Carter. One of the members of the review team was a Clinical Biochemist: Prof Chris Price.

The English Dept of Health has accepted the report, but it is not yet policy. Implementation is anticipated in the next year. The ACB have run a series of Roadshows to inform members; approximately 25% of the membership attended and information has been made available on the members page of our web-site. We expect significant change in laboratory configurations and our relationships with industry to result.

SERBIA

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Main activities: The members of the Society appointed by Ministry of Health of Serbia actively participated in forming The Chamber of Medical Biochemists of Serbia that will work on all future activities and regulation of medical biochemistry and clinical chemistry as profession in health service of Serbia. The Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia is formed according to the Health Law of Serbia.

The Society organized two educational seminars devoted to the application of tumor markers in laboratory medicine (Belgrade, April 2006) and about the diagnostics of autoimmune and rheumatic diseases (June 2006, Sokobanja):

The Society organized two professional meetings about the accreditation of medical laboratories (International Convention of Quality, YUSQ, May 2006, Belgrade) and the Novelties in Laboratory Diagnostics in connection to 31st Belgrade Fair on Medicine and Techniques (Medipharm, September 2006);

The members of the Society are actively participated on 14th Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (September 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria);

The Society has been organizer of the Second FESCC Symposium for Balkan Region and XIVth Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (17-21. October, 2006, Novi Sad). Both Meetings are organized under the auspices of IFCC and FESCC with about 400 participants from Serbia, and all other Balkan countries. The coordinators of the 2nd FESCC Symposium were Professors Nada Majkić-Singh, Victor Blaton and Svetlana Ignjatović.

The 2nd FESCC Symposium has been organized in four parts, firstly devoted to the New Diagnostic Tools in Clinical Chemistry, i.e. SELDI-TOF-MS, 2 D-HPLC system and protein microarrays applied in protein analysis; the second part of Symposium has been about the applications of biomarkers of diseases on an Evidence-Based approach using cardiac natriuretic peptides, complexed PSA, serum HER-2/neu and bone markers as examples. In third part of the Symposium the Application of Quality Indicators in a Medical Laboratory on the basis of the quality of the sample and its impact on clinical decisions, quality control programme, interlaboratory comparison programs, application of ISO 15189 and complete automation of medical laboratory processes have been discussed. Round table discussion on presented topics has been organized as fourth part of the 2nd FESCC Symposium.

The XIVth Congress had main sessions on genome and proteome, the current aspects of the atherothrombotic disease, biochemical markers of the diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cardiac markers, methods in clinical chemistry and proteins and enzymes.

IXth Scientific Conference „Professor Ivan Berkeš“ will be held in Belgrade (December, 2006). The traditionally the best master and doctoral thesis will be presented and the best students graduated the Medical Biochemistry on Pharmaceutical Faculty of the Belgrade University will be awarded by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia.

In 2006 the Society published two books (Majkić-Singh: Medical Biochemistry, and Lalić&Ilić: Analysis of Urine and Urine Sediment Atlas) and four Volumes of the Society Journal “Jugoslovenska Medicinska Biohemija”.

INDIA

Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)

National Conference

The 33rd National Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India was held in the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College, Pune from 23-26 Nov 2006. This conference turned out to be a “Conference with a difference” as it had more than 50 corporate houses exhibiting their products. The Organizing Secretary of the conference Col Parduman Singh and his team had come up with the novel idea of covering all the recent advances in laboratory sciences as five pre-conference CMEs and two workshops one day prior to the conference. The conference received a never before preceded participation with over 1200 delegated registering for the conference from all over the country. The conference also had a large number of foreign delegates and guest speakers from countries like Australia, USA, UK, Iran, Ethiopia, Germany, China and SAARC countries.

The conference was inaugurated by Surgeon Vice Admiral VK Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Presidents’ Honorary Surgeon, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services and Senior Colonel Commandant. Dr Mrudula Phadke, the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences delivered Awadhesh Saran Memorial Oration on “Prenatal Diagnosis of Genetic Disorders”, a topic which clearly spelt out the progression of Biochemistry from a specialty of test tubes shaking to a cutting edge specialty of the future. During the Inaugural function, Col Parduman Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune was installed as the President of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India.

Many eminent and international professionals shared their ideas with the delegates. A stalwart in Molecular Biology, Dr Krishna Rao Appasani, Founder and CEO, Gene expression Systems Inc, USA spoke on the Nobel prize winning topic “RNA interference : A novel molecular mechanism for the discovery of therapeutics and diagnostics”. Dr Peter Vervaat from Royal Hobart Hospital, Tasmania, Australia covered the important topic “Direct measurement of Lipoprotein cholesterol”. The APFCB Traveling Lecture was delivered by Dr Chris Lam from Hong Kong on the topic “The Laboratory medicine of Infectious diseases”. Dr Ruma Banerjee Professor of Biochemistry

from University of Nebraska discussed "Homocysteine dependant redox Homeostasis and disease". Dr R Swaminathan, a non-resident Sri Lankan and Professor of Biochemistry from UK deliberated on "Plasma nucleic acids in diagnosis and management" a novel concept, which has helped in diagnosis of diseases in difficult situations, especially in the case of the unborn. Unique in itself, this conference had delegates from SAARC countries like Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan and Nepal also attending the proceedings

The conference also featured 7 symposia on varied topics like "Preanalytical Automation", "Data management in Clinical Chemistry", Renal Biochemistry etc. Unique to the field, the importance of Bioethics in Laboratory Practice was included as a seminar in the conference where stalwarts like Dr J. S. Rai from UK participating in the deliberations.

There was an unprecedented participation from the junior residents and budding Biochemists with over 200 poster presentations on various aspects of Clinical Biochemistry. This was also accompanied with 83 oral presentations that were conducted over 3 days. The star attraction of the conference was a PG quiz contest that was conducted over two days. The quiz was conducted by Dr R Chawla, from Ethiopia on a dynamic interactive computer based module. Teams from more than 50 medical colleges participated in the quiz.

Talking about the conference, the Organising Secretary and now the President of ACBICON, Col Parduman Singh said that conferences with wider scope were the need of the hour to keep the young biochemists abreast with the fantastic advances in the field of laboratory services in terms of instrumentation, software, analytical techniques and diagnostic modalities.

PRE-CONFERENCE CME IN THE FIELD OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

The department of Biochemistry, AFMC along with the cooperation of the Department of Microbiology and Forensic Medicine conducted a "Pre Conference Workshop and CME" on 22nd Nov 2006, just before the start of the 33rd National Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India. This was aimed at imparting training and upraising the budding biochemists about the latest development in this rapidly progressing field of Clinical Biochemistry.

Two workshops were conducted, one on the use and operation of "High Performance Liquid Chromatography" (HPLC). HPLC, a technique that is aimed at separation and quantitation of analytes in a solution, is a major recent advances in the field of biochemistry and is a protocol that finds wide use in the field of diagnostics and therapeutics. A hand on training for over 50 delegates was conducted by Dr B.L. Somani and Shri S Naveen of the department of Biochemistry. The second workshop was on "Variant Electrophoresis" which was conducted by Lt Col HS Batra and Maj Bhaskar Mukherjee and was attended by a similar number of delegates.

5 parallel CMEs were also conducted on the following topics : (a) DNA profiling : Forensic Aspects, (b) Stem Cell Therapy (c) Molecular Biology Techniques, (d) Bio safety in Clinical Laboratory with special reference to HIV, (e) Laboratory Management : Emerging Trends in the 21st Century. These topics were chosen with great care to ensure that the young doctors and health care providers were apprised with the latest information. In all more than 350 delegates (both service as well as civilians) benefited from the deliberations.

The CME and workshop was specifically designed to meet the needs of the young Biochemists and served as a good platform to expose them to the emerging horizons in the field of Biochemistry.

Lt Gen JR Bharadwaj, PVSM, A VSM, VSM(Retd) an eminent Pathologist who is currently also a member of the National Disaster Management Authority inaugurated the Pre CME Workshop and Conference. It was a matter of pride and honour that such an eminent personality did the honour of inauguration. In his Opening Address, Lt Gen J. R. Bharadwaj, PVSM, A VSM, VSM stressed upon the importance of Quality Care in the field of Laboratory Medicine. He also urged the young doctors to keep abreast with the latest developments in the fast evolving and ever changing field of Clinical Medicine.

Launching of Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Programme (NSQAP)

Another important development of ACBI during the year is the launching of NSQAP. Effective screening of newborns using dried blood spot specimens collected at birth combined with follow up diagnostic studies and treatment helps to prevent mental retardation and premature death. ACBI Delhi Chapter in collaboration with CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, US has launched NSQAP that is expected to be operational for Jan 2007. More than 400 newborn screening labs in 54 countries are participating in this programme.

AWARDS:

- 1. Sri A. J. Thakur Distinguished Clinical Biochemist Award** for the 2006 was given to Dr, T. N .Pattabhiraman , Past President of ACBI & Ex-Editor-in-chief of IFCB.
- 2. Fellowship of ACBI (FACBI)** was awarded to Dr. M. V. Kodliwadmath, Prof & Head, Dept. of Biochemistry, JNMC, Belgaum and to Dr. M. V. R. Reddy, Prof. & Head, Department of Biochemistry, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sewagram.
- 3. Awadhesh Saran Memorial Oration Award** was bestowed on Dr. Mrs. M. A. Phadke, Vice-Chancellor, Maharashtra University of Medical Sciences, Nashik, India
- 4. K. L. Gupta Memorial Oration Award** was bestowed on Dr. Indu Mohan Gupta, Former Professor of Pathology, BUH, Varanasi, India
- 5. KEM & Seth G. S. Medical College Oration Award** was bestowed on Dr. Ruma Banerjee, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Nebraska, USA .
- 6. Mrs. & Dr. G. P. Talwar Oration Award** was bestowed on Dr. R. Swaminathan, Professor of Chemical Pathology, St. Thomas Hospital, London, UK
- 7. Dr. T. N. Pattabiraman Oration Award** was bestowed on Dr. K. Taranath Shetty , Professor of Neurochemistry & Dean, NIMHANS, Bangalore, India
- 8. Dr. Subir Kumar Das** of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Ernakulum, Cochin received **2006 Van Slyke Foundation Research Grant Award** through AACC.
- 9. Six young scientists** of ACBI received the Best Paper/Best Poster Awards. (**Dr. Sitadevi, Dr.P.S. Murthy, NIMS, MGIMS Awards**). Another six young members were awarded with **ACBI Travel- Fellowships** to attend ACBI Annual Meeting.

ACBI-CRC EQ programme

The ACBI CMC external QA programme is being run smoothly by Dr. R. Selvakumar at CMC, Vellore. About 1705 labs are participating. Most of the participating labs are submitting the results online making the analysis and feedback faster.

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IJCB

There has been change of guard. After serving as Editor-in-chief since 2002, Dr. D.N.Rao has handed over the journal to the new editor in chief Dr. Praveen Sharma. Dr. Praveen Sharma has released the July 2006 issue in time and has also launched a new dedicated interactive website for the journal.

ACBI-Bulletin

Thanks to the support of ACBI-CW members, two issues of the bulletins have been released in time. A new editorial team has been constituted and we are looking forward that the new team will ensure the improvement in the Quality and scope of the bulletin in future.

ACBICON 2007

Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi won the bid to hold 34th ACBICON 2007 in December 2007 for which Dr. Arun Raizada was elected as the organizing Secretary. The tentative dates fixed are 6th to 9th December, 2007.

Regional Meetings

There were quite a number of scientific meetings/ workshops organized by the State/ Regional Chapters. The major ones were:

1. Maharashtra State Chapter Conference of Clinical Biochemistry was held at Latur during January 29 to 31, 2006 by Dr D.B.Rathi and his colleagues from Govt Medical College and MIMSA Medical College, Latur. On this occasion a CME was also organized on Nutrition in Health & Disease. More than 100 delegates participated in the meeting.
2. The Department of Biochemistry & JB Tropical Disease Research Centre, MGIMS, Sevagram has organized a short time hands on training course on Immunodiagnosics for Infectious Diseases during Feb 6 to 11, 2006.
3. A seminar on 'Quality control and Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratory' was organized under the aegis of ACBI and Randox Laboratories on 29/07/2006 at Jaipur.
4. Association of Clinical Biochemist of India, Andhra Pradesh Chapter organized a regional meeting on 13 Oct 2006 at auditorium, Global Hospital, Hyderabad and was attended by over 100 delegates from Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Pradeep Naik, the state Rep was the organizing secretary.
5. The Madurai Chapter of ACBI organized a Seminar cum Workshop on Quality Assurance and Quality Control for laboratory personnel and clinicians on the 28th January 2006 at Madurai Medical College, Madurai. Dr.Rita Mary Aruna, Prof. & Head of Biochemistry, Madurai Medical College and Dr.K.Aruna Devi, Prof. & Head of Biochemistry, Theni Medical College, Theni organized this seminar. M/s Randox

Laboratories India Ltd., sponsored this programme. About 150 participants from all over Tamil Nadu attended. .

6. Stress 2006 - An international meeting on education for healthcare professions held during 10-11 June 2006 at Kolkata. The meet was organized by National Referral Centre for the Prevention of Lead Absorption in India (West Bengal) and Department of Biochemistry, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Kolkata.

7. ACBI Delhi Chapter organized two Meetings

a) Seminar on Laboratory tests for Acute Coronary Syndromes & trends in Molecular Diagnostics. The half day meet was held on 6th May 2006 and was sponsored by American Association of Clinical Chemistry International Advisory Group (AACCIAG), Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in North America (AIPNA-AAPI) and ACBI Delhi Chapter. With the desire to increase the interaction between Biochemists & Pathologists support of IAPM Delhi was elicited and obtained. The meet was organized by Dr.Lal PathLabs, in Windsor Hall, Le Meridean Hotel, Janpath, New Delhi. Dr Arvind Lal, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs was the Chief Patron and Dr Puneet Kr Nigam was the organizing secretary. The first presentation on 'Acute Coronary Syndromes' (ACS) was delivered by Dr Selwyn J. Baptist, MD, FCAP Associate Chairman, Department of Pathology, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, USA. The second presentation on 'Trends in Molecular Diagnostics' was delivered by Dr Helen Fernandes, Scientific Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ 07103, USA. Both the presenters are also College of American Pathologists (CAP) inspectors and are therefore very conversant with regulatory requirements to achieve quality in testing in the respective fields. The meet was attended by about eighty delegates comprising laboratory directors, pathologists, biochemists and NABL inspectors from Delhi and neighbouring cities as far as Ahmedabad.

b) The Annual meet of ACBI Delhi Chapter 2006 and Seminar on Quality Control & Recent Advances in Kidney Function Assessment. The meet held on 4th Nov 2006 was organized by Dr Lal PathLab at India Habitat Centre and sponsored by Randox. Dr Arvind Lal, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs was the Chief Patron and Dr Puneet Kr Nigam was the organizing secretary.

The meet was very well attended with more than hundred thirty delegates coming from all the premier private/government institutes and medical colleges of Delhi. The meet was divided into two technical sessions-one on Recent Advances in Kidney Function Assessment and other on Quality control.

Office Bearers of ACBI

Following persons were elected Office bearers for the year 2007:-.

President: Col. Parduman Singh, Professor of Biochemistry, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune,

Vice-President: (1) Dr. Arun Raizada, Head, Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry, Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi – 110025; **(2) Dr. U. Satyanarayana**, Professor of Biochemistry, Sidharth Medical College, University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada - 520008

Advisor: Dr. K. P. Sinha, Director, Biochem-Lab, East Boring Canal Road, Patna - 800001

Secretary: Dr. M. V. R. Reddy, Professor of Biochemistry, MGIMS, Sevagram-442102

Treasurer: Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha, Biochem-Lab, Patna -800001

Joint-Secretary (Head Office). Dr. K. R. Prasad, Patna

(Secretariat) **Dr. Kalyan Goswami**, Sewagram.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Society for Clinical Biochemistry (CSCB)

CSCB is the scientific society with the family of societies under the umbrella of Czech Medical Association (Purkinje Medical Association). Actual number of scientists and physicians in the CSCB is 770.

New executive board has been elected in April 2006, new president of the CSCB is Prof. Tomas Zima, MD, PhD., new members of the board are Drs. Gotzmannova, Jabor, Racek, Radina, Sprongl and Vavrova.

In 2006, there were common activities (national symposia, regional symposia and seminars, local scientific events etc.). Main event of the year was the national symposium FONS 2006 with approx. 400 participants.

Scientific journal „Klinicka biochemie a metabolismus“ (volume 35) is distributed to all members of the society since January 2006 (4 issues per year, previously available for a personal subscription only). Information bulletin FONS is distributed to all members of the society (and technicians) free of charge four times a year. Co-operation with Czech EQA provider (SEKK Company, accredited EQA provider) is based of high scientific platform for more that 10 years. Among other activities, recommendations and guidelines are prepared and published in different media. Web site (www.cskb.cz) of the CSCB is a powerful information toll (information of recommendations, education) and has approximately 30000 visits per year, the web site is under construction and English version will be innovated.

SLOVENIA

Slovensko Združenje za Klinično Kemijo (SZKK) Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry

Activities: Four professional meetings for association members were organized. The meetings were in different cities in Slovenia covering the topics of tumor markers, eGFR, allergy.

The 6th FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry in Dubrovnik on the topic »Metabolic Syndrome« was organized together with HDMB and FESCC.

SZKK and HDMB organized 17th International Symposium on „Sepsis – Clinical and Diagnostic Challenge“ in Zagreb, Croatia.

SZKK is very active on the educational training programmes of laboratory technicians, in the year 2006 approximately 500 technicians have been participated.

The training programme of Slovenian specialist of medical chemistry got the EC4 »equivalence of standard« and 37 our members registered as »European Specialist of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine«.

In cooperation with SIQ (Slovenian Institute of Quality) and ZLMS (Slovenian Chamber of Laboratory Medicine) SZKK organized four seminars for Internal Assessors of quality system in medical laboratories according to ISO 15189:2003.

SZKK takes an active part in establishment of accreditation process of medical laboratories with Slovenian accreditation body (SA).

SZKK participated with Institute for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry at University Clinical Center Ljubljana and Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Ljubljana and Slovenian Chamber of Laboratory Medicine in organising of professional meeting: Value-added and changing role for medical laboratory.

SZKK will continue work in Professional Body of Ministry of Health of Republic Slovenia for laboratory diagnostics.

MACEDONIA

Macedonian Society of Medical Biochemists (MSMB)

MSMB is heterogeneous society, mainly confounded from the biologists and chemists, medical doctors and pharmacists.

Because we are one of the countries in transition, the most important task is regulation of the finances to the IFCC. The other important thing is improvement of the program of internal and external quality control of the laboratories on the national level. There are continuous programs of information and education which are organized through meetings and courses with plenary lectures from eminent professors.

One of the primary tasks for the next year will be the creation of the web site of our society so we can have better connection to other societies and IFCC.

URUGUAY

Asociación Bioquímica Uruguaya (ABU)

Activities: Courses: Thyroid Disease June, Coagulation Disorders August, Critical patients and clinical laboratory November, Collaboration in the Annual Meeting of EQAs May.

Committee participation: To advise the Ministry of Health in topics related with the Clinical Laboratory Regulation, Active participation in the CS 20 Mercosur (translation of regulations), Participation in the Government of the University representing the career of Clinical Biochemistry by the Graduate order, Member at large (2nd place in the Executive Board of COLABIOCLI), Integration of the Scientific Committee of the Latin-American Congress of COLABIOCLI (Paraguay), Collaboration in the organization of the Latin-American Congress of COLABIOCLI (Paraguay).

LITHUANIA

Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine

The Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine is the member of the IFCC since 1996. The Society members regularly attend conferences, congresses, different seminars, also collaborates with scientists from different countries.

The most important event in the year 2006 was the organization of the 8th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine, which was organized by the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine together with the Lithuanian Society of Human Genetics, Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences under the auspices of the Forum of the European Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (FESCC). The Congress was dedicated to the 225th Anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University.

The Congress was attended by more than 500 participants from the different countries all over the world: Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Israel, France, United Kingdom, USA.

The Scientific Program of the 8th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine was focused on different areas of laboratory medicine and human genetics. There were plenary lectures, 8 Symposiums, 8 Workshops, and a Satellite symposium, which was organized and financed by the WHO. Poster presentations as well as exhibition of laboratory equipment and supplies were presented at the Congress. FESCC-EC4 committee had their board meeting during the Congress in Vilnius.

The 8th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine was scientifically as well as socially and culturally a successful event.

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)

The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists held from 23 – 24 June 2006. It was preceded by the joint MACB-AACB QA Workshop held the previous day (reported in these pages under Meetings)

The 16th MACB ASM was officiated by the President of the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists, Dr Badrul Amini Abdul Rashid. The guests of honour were Mr Joseph Lopez, the APFCB President and Dr Tony Badrick, the AACB President. The meeting comprised the APFCB Travelling Lecture, 2 Plenary papers, 3 symposium topics with a total of 9 papers, 6 papers in the Free Paper sessions and 9 Posters, 4 Industrial Workshops. There were 11 booths for the Trade Exhibition.

The meeting started on Day 1 with the APFCB Travelling Lecture, 'The Laboratory Medicine of Infectious Diseases' presented by Professor Chris Lam Wai Kei.

This was followed by the first plenary lecture 'Clinician's Perspective in Endocrine Testing' was presented by Dr Zanariah Hussin, a consultant endocrinologist from Putrajaya Hospital, Malaysia. The plenary lecture was followed by 3 symposium lectures, The 'What, When And Which' Of Catecholamine Measurements by Dr T Malathi from the Department of Pathology, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur; Quality Considerations in Immunoassays – An unresolved issue by JB Lopez; The Importance Of Newborn Screening For Endocrine Disorders by Dr Fuziah Md. Zain, a pediatric endocrinologist from Hospital Putrajaya.

In the afternoon, 6 papers were presented by participants from the local hospitals and academic institutions in the free papers sessions. The MACB 16th AGM was held after the free paper sessions.

An MACB Annual Dinner was held in conjunction with the 16th ASM and the guests of honour among the members were the delegates from APFCB, AACB and Vietnam.

The second day of the meeting started off with the Symposium on Accreditation, Industrial Workshop, a plenary lecture followed by the Symposium on Recent Advances in Methodology and Instrumentation.

For the Accreditation Symposium, 3 papers were presented by the guest speakers from AACB: Method Validation and Verification in Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory by Dr Renze Bais, Development of Reference Ranges from Laboratory Data by Dr Peter Stewart and Simple Steps in Calculating Measurements of Uncertainty by Dr Tony Badrick.

The symposium was followed by an industrial workshop presented by 4 local distributors on their latest products.

The afternoon session started off with the second plenary lecture of the meeting. Recent Advances in Bone Markers was presented by Dr Sam Vasikaran of the AACB. The plenary was followed by the Symposium on Recent Advances in Methodology and Instrumentation. The topics presented were Sensors/Biosensors Technology For Heavy Metals Analysis by Dr Fairulnizal Mohd Noh of the Institute Medical Research of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Dry Chemistry Revisited by Dr Aw Tar Choon from the Changi General Hospital, Singapore and Cytokine and Chemokine Immunopathology in Allergic Asthma by Professor Chris Lam.

The meeting was attended by 170 participants, of which the majority of the registered participants were from over Malaysia, 2 from Australia, 1 from Singapore and 1 participant from Vietnam.

ESTONIA

Estonian Society for Laboratory Medicine (ESLM)

Main activities: The 8th Summer School of Laboratory Medicine and regular educational meetings of ESLM (2)

The 8th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine in Vilnius, Lithuania (in cooperation with professional societies of Latvia and Lithuania)

ESLM has been a partner for the Estonian Health Insurance Fund in the preparation of the activity based prices for the laboratory services in Estonia. Much work has been done in several working groups on this project and since the beginning of 2007 the new prices should come into effect.

Certification of laboratory professionals in Estonia. The certification of medical and non-medical laboratory staff by the society started in autumn 2005 and will be carried out twice a year. The certification of a specialist will be valid for 5 years.

Professional societies of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania prepared the formal registration of the Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine (BALM).

In Sept 2006 we celebrated the 15th anniversary of modernizing the teaching of laboratory medicine in Estonia (University of Tartu). Great impact into this process was given by PHARE/ TEMPUS project (1994 – 1997) in cooperation with the specialists from the universities of Glasgow (UK), Turku (Finland) and Odense (Denmark).

CORPORATE MEMBERS

In 2006, three companies joined IFCC while two decided to cancel their IFCC Corporate Membership, so that at the end of the year, we had in total 37 Corporate Members. In addition to supporting general IFCC activities through their membership fees financially, numerous delegates from Corporate Members actively contribute in the various Working Groups and Committees. Three of our four Divisions have an active Corporate Representative on their Executive Committee, with the only vacancy currently left in the Congress and Conference Division. Moreover, several Corporate Members held industry-sponsored workshops at IFCC congresses and conferences, as well as directly sponsored certain IFCC initiatives or specific portions thereof such as the Visiting Lecturer Program. And last but not least, all of the IFCC Scientific Awards continue to be sponsored by one of the Corporate Members.

In the annual Corporate Member Meeting held in Chicago, presentations about IFCC's future direction, and current major activities and the Scientific Division and Education and Management Division were given by our President, Jocelyn Hicks, and the Chairs of the Divisions, Mauro Panteghini and Janet Smith, respectively. In addition, Andrea Mosca, Chair of the HbA2 Working Group presented on its progress and asked for general interest and demand estimates from the industry for a respective secondary reference material. Finally, the question was posed to the Corporate Members as to how IFCC could help them.

Norbert Madry
Corporate Representative

ORGANIZATIONS (REGIONAL) AFFILIATED WITH IFCC

ASIAN-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (APFCB)

Achievements and highlights:

- Education: 3 travelling lectureships in 2006:
 - APFCB Travelling Lectureship: 8 countries visited
 - APFCB-Beckman Coulter Education Symposium lectures: visits to Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Mainland China completed in August-September
 - IFCC Visiting Lectureship: first leg from 7-26 November to India, Malaysia and Indonesia
- APFCB scholarship programme and Philanthropic Fund:
 - APFCB scholarship programme launched with the award of the APFCB-Anon scholarship
 - APFCB Philanthropic Fund: grants to APFCB received from IFCC in 2005 and 2006 have been transferred to the Fund
 - Agreement on Emile von Behring scholarship programme signed with Dade Behring
 - Several scholarships will be provided to young scientists to attend 11th APCCB, Beijing
- 11th APCCB, Beijing, 14-19 October 2007:
 - organizing committee met in September in Qingdao, Mainland China
 - APFCB officers to visit China in February to review progress of preparations with

organizing committee

- 2 APFCB regional scientific projects undertaken:
 - HbA_{1c} project – 2006 specimen challenge completed and reported
 - Reference intervals - on-going, at data analysis stage
- Corporate Membership: corporate representative elected and serves as observer on the Executive Committee
- Finance:
 - Finances continue to be healthy
 - Executive Committee receives quarterly accounts and monthly bank statements. Statement of accounts presented to Council annually
- APFCB-BD Diagnostics Distinguished Service Award to Professor Chris Lam
- Linkages:
 - Close links continue with IFCC
 - Regional/International meetings organized by APFCB members: two in 2006

Traveling Lectureships: The provision of lectures on topics of current interest by traveling experts at meetings organized by our member associations, is the longest established of the APFCB activities and perhaps its most valuable contribution to its members. The traveling lectures are generally organized on the understanding that corporate sponsors meet the travel costs of the lecturer while the host association is responsible for local costs. Three traveling lectureships were planned and undertaken in 2006.

The APFCB Traveling Lectureship: Professor Chris Lam is the current APFCB Traveling. During the year Chris spoke, in chronological order, in Taiwan, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Japan, China, Australia, Indonesia and India. This has been an extremely successful and well-received Traveling Lectureship. Roche Diagnostics Asian Pacific Pte. Ltd. kindly sponsored this traveling lectureship.

We are pleased to announce that APFCB Vice-President Dr Leslie Lai has been appointed the next APFCB Traveling Lecturer. Abbott Diagnostics and Abbott Diabetes Care have committed to jointly sponsor this lectureship which will be on diabetes mellitus and the metabolic syndrome.

The APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium lectures: This series of lectures is sponsored by Beckman Coulter where the lecturer is selected jointly by Beckman Coulter and the APFCB. While the lecture topics of the APFCB Traveling Lecture tend to be on current and cutting edge issues, the Symposium lectures focus on day-to-day matters that confront the laboratory. Though the Symposium lectures were initially intended for 3 years ending 2005, it has been extended by Beckman Coulter till 2008.

Dr Ralph Dadoun of Canada, an expert on laboratory automation, visited Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Qingdao in Mainland China as the Symposium lecturer on the subject for 2006 in late August and September. In China, Dr Dadoun spoke at the meeting of the Chinese Association of Clinical Laboratory Management, an affiliate member of the APFCB.

The IFCC Visiting Lectureship: Professor Rita Horvath of Hungary, visited India, Malaysia and Indonesia November 7 – 26, 2006, as the IFCC VL on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine. She will make another visit to the region in 2007 concluding the VL as a plenary lecturer at the 11th APCCB, in Beijing.

The feed-back we have received suggests that Professor Horvath had a very appreciative and enthusiastic reception in all her stops. The VL's travel expenses are met by the IFCC while local host associations provide local hospitality. The tour is coordinated by the APFCB Education Committee. This is an excellent example where national/area associations of clinical biochemistry and their regional federation, work cooperatively with the IFCC for the benefit of countries in a region.

The APFCB Philanthropic Fund and the APFCB Scholarship Programme: An important achievement of the present Executive Committee in 2005 was the establishment of the APFCB Philanthropic Fund. The recently introduced annual grant from the IFCC to regional federations that was received in 2005 was used to seed this fund. A further grant received in 2006 was added to bolster it. The Fund will be primarily used to provide scholarships to young deserving scientists from our region to attend major meetings to present their work and to receive training in specialised areas of clinical biochemistry.

Funding for the APFCB's scholarship programme comes, in the main, from the APFCB Philanthropic Fund. The scholarship programme got off to its start when the APFCB-Anon Scholarship, the APFCB's first ever scholarship, was awarded to Dr Ronald CC Wang of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The scholarship is sponsored for 3 years by a senior clinical biochemist from the Asia-Pacific region and is meant to enable a young scientist from the region to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists. The AACB has kindly agreed to waive the registration fee for the scholarship holder.

The APFCB expects to provide a number of travel awards to young scientists from our region to present their work at the 11th Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (APCCB) to be held in Beijing in October next year. As these awards will be in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the APFCB they will be called the APFCB Silver Jubilee scholarships.

Meanwhile the APFCB recently signed an agreement with Dade Behring on the Emile von Behring scholarships to be provided by the company and administered by the APFCB.

11th APCCB, Beijing, 14- 19 October 2007: The APFCB Executive is in close touch with the organising committee which is chaired by Professor Yang Zhen Hua of the CSLM. The committee recently met in Qingdao in conjunction with the scientific meeting of the Chinese Association of Clinical Laboratory Management. The APFCB has been informed that the response from diagnostics industry towards support of the congress has been good.

The APFCB Executive Committee has provided valuable assistance to the organizers in many areas. A team of APFCB officers is expected to visit Beijing in early February 2007 to assess progress in the preparations of the congress. The APFCB and the IFCC are expected to play key roles in the congress.

Regional scientific projects: A survey to assess the variation in the measurement of HbA_{1c} within the Asia-Pacific region was undertaken by the APFCB Scientific Committee in 2005. The samples were supplied by the CACB out of Taiwan. Funding

for the 2005 challenge was provided by Bio-Rad while Dade-Behring funded the 2006 survey.

A project to determine reference intervals was organized by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara of Japan, in collaboration with the IFCC. Reference intervals will be determined in 2 ways, namely from blood samples and from data-mining of patients' results, both obtained from centres within our region which are collaborating in the project. It is hoped that the results of both these studies will be presented at the 11th APCCB in Beijing

Corporate members: The APFCB currently has 15 corporate members, 2 more than the number of voting APFCB member associations. The constitution, as it presently stands, does not permit their representation on either the Executive Committee or the APFCB Council, the highest decision making body of the APFCB.

At the beginning of 2006, APFCB Council voted to agree on the need for corporate representation. Mr Jean-Luc Devleeschauwer, of Dade-Behring was duly elected by corporate membership as their representative. The Council further agreed that Mr. Devleeschauwer could serve as a non-voting observer of the APFCB Executive Committee until such as time an amendment to the constitution was made to include the Corporate Representative as a full voting member. An amendment to this effect will be tabled at the Council meeting in Beijing. With these steps, the corporate membership now has a voice on the Executive.

Finance: The finances of the APFCB continue to be healthy. Solidtrack Management of Singapore was appointed last year to serve as the APFCB Office and manage our finances and handle matters pertaining to statutory requirements. Since then we have been able to monitor our financial position more closely. The Executive Committee now receives monthly bank statements and quarterly statements of accounts. In addition, the Council receives an annual a statement of accounts, a change from the past where this was only done triennially.

The APFCB is that rarity which does not collect a subscription from its member associations. It is entirely dependent on 2 sources for its income, these being the portion of the surplus it receives from the APCCBs, and, subscriptions and donations received from our corporate partners for specific activities.

I wish to acknowledge with great appreciation the valuable support that the corporate partners and the IFCC have provided for our various activities in 2006:

Roche Diagnostics	2006 APFCB Travelling Lectureship	
Dade Behring	1. HbA _{1c} Project 2. Emile von Behring Scholarships	
BD Diagnostics	APFCB Distinguished Service Award	Any surplus arising from this sponsorship will be used to provide one scholarship for the 11 th APCCB
IFCC	Annual grants to regional federations 2006	Transferred to APFCB Philanthropic Fund to be used to fund the APFCB

	Scholarship programme
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Membership: We will continue with efforts to increase the APFCB's voting and corporate membership. The APFCB has been instrumental in encouraging a senior biochemist in Sri Lanka to form a national association. At the time of writing, the APFCB has been informed that an inaugural meeting of a pro-tem group has been held and that an application for the registration of a national society of clinical biochemistry has been submitted to the government.

We are aware that several countries in our region are not represented in the APFCB. They include countries in South and Southeast Asia, North Asia and the Pacific islands. We welcome any efforts by APFCB members to bring into our fold, their neighbouring countries who are not yet members.

APFCB Distinguished Service Award: Immediate Past President Professor Chris Lam has been conferred the second APFCB-BD Diagnostics Distinguished Service Award, the only award that is within the gift of the APFCB. The selection was made by a committee comprising Vice-President Leslie Lai (Chair), Dr Tony Badrick (AACB) Professor Ho Hoon Kwon (KSCC), Mrs. Endang Hoyaranda (IACC), Dr Sunil Sethi (SACB and the APFCB President).

Publications: Our newsletter, The APFCB News, is published annually. It is bulk-distributed without charge within the Asia-Pacific member associations region and to senior professionals in clinical chemistry outside the region in all 5 continents. Advertising income has grown steadily in recent years. Recent issues of the News have become financially self-sustaining and even slightly profitable. It has received good reviews from several quarters.

The APFCB web-site will be revamped. Mr Leslie Watkinson and Dr Andrew Wootton, both of the AACB, have been appointed the web editor and web-master, respectively.

Linkages: The APFCB's relationship with the IFCC is one of mutual respect and it has grown closer in recent years. Our formal link is the APFCB-IFCC agreement on the APCCBs under which we have recently received the second Visiting Lecturer (Professor Horvath). In addition, APFCB officers also hold positions concurrent position in senior IFCC committees: the APFCB President Mr. Joe Lopez is a member of the Executive Board while Dr Leslie Lai and Dr Sunil Sethi are members of the Executive Committees of the Education and Management Division and Congress and Conference Division, respectively.

A heartening development in recent years has been the organization of meetings jointly undertaken between the APFCB members and other organizations. The following activities took place in 2006:

- The Australasian ACB and the AACC joined together, for the first time, to offer a two-day conference on future trends in laboratory medicine themed, "Planning for Tomorrow's Technology", May 29-30, 2006, in Cairns, Australia.
- In June 2006, the AACB conducted a workshop on laboratory quality in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in conjunction with the MACB.

While the APFCB cannot claim to have initiated any of these activities, we have, in some instances, acted as their catalysts and are proud to have been associated with all of them. I am pleased to inform that the second conference on laboratory automa-

tion will be jointly organized in Singapore in 2007 by the AACC and SACB, under the auspices of the APFCB. APFCB members are urged to support this conference

Council Meeting, October 2007: The next meeting of the APFCB Council will be held in Beijing in 2007. Nominations for the election of officers will be called for sometime in early 2007. In the event of a contest, elections will be held at the APFCB Council meeting in Beijing in October. The term of office of the present Executive Committee and Chairs of standing committees, a group of dedicated colleagues, will end at the Council Meeting. It will be up to the membership to reflect on our performance of the past 3 years. I can assure you that we have done our best to serve you, often under trying circumstances. Our progress in many areas has been gradually incremental. We have strengthened our existing activities, especially in education, and, initiated several new ones. But while much has been achieved and there is much to be proud of, much more needs to be done.

The Beijing congress will also coincide with the Silver Jubilee of the APFCB. Unlike the Council meetings of recent years, I hope that all our members will be present in Beijing to join in this happy event. It will be a time to take stock and plan for the future. But planning alone will not be enough. The APFCB remains very much a voluntary organization whose officers are expected to be hands-on and actively contribute their valuable time when elected. It is therefore imperative that only those who are sincere in their desire to serve should be elected, if the APFCB is to continue to thrive.

Joe Lopez
President APFCB

FORUM OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (FESCC)

FESCC activities in 2006

The executive board of FESCC had 6 meetings during 2006 in:

- Milano (17-19 Feb) at the IFCC office
- Damascus (29th April- 3th May) during Arabmedlab conference
- Vilnius (19-21 May) during Baltic conference
- Chicago (22-27 July) during the AACC congress
- Sofia (29th Sept-1 Oct) during the Balkan conference (BCLF)
- Budapest (9-10 Dec) together with the EC4 meeting.

The main topic of interest in 2006 was the EC4/FESCC merger. The activities for a merged European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine continued during the whole year and took a lot of time and energy. Together with the EC4 officers we were able to formulate 'Vision, mission, goals and objectives' which were distributed to all stake holders together with the draft statutes, the budget proposal and the structure of the new organisation. All societies were asked for comments, corrections and changes. Most societies agreed but some proposed minor changes which were taken up in the documents during the Budapest meeting. At the end of 2006 the final version of the statutes and the structure were sent again to the presidents of the National Societies together with a ballot form with three voting possibilities concerning the merger.

The IFCC was informed by VB during a Colabiocli meeting in Asuncion, together with a presentation of the FESCC activities of the last years. In Chicago there was a second meeting of a delegation from EC4 and FESCC boards with the IFCC president,

past president and secretary. The merge plans were reconsidered again by the IFCC board in November.

At the closure of 14 February 2007 we expect to have most votes available in favour of continuing the process.

The discussions with UEMS continued after a remarkable letter of Dr. Madden from Ireland. This issue will be hard to solve.

All European societies were asked to propose candidates for the FESCC Roche Award to be given at the Euromedlab conference in Amsterdam. Finally 4 candidates were proposed, among those, one by five societies!

The postgraduate course in Dubrovnik was organized Nov. 11-12, 2006. The topic of the 6th FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry was "NEW TRENDS IN DIAGNOSIS, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF METABOLIC SYNDROME". The Organizers of the Course were Forum of the European Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (FESCC), Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists (CSMB), Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry (SACC), and it was organized under the IFCC Auspices. The course attracted a lot of participants.

The 2nd FESCC SYMPOSIUM FOR THE BALKAN REGION was held from October 17th to October 21st 2006, along with the XV Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, in the organization of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia. Both congresses were held under the auspices of the IFCC and FESCC, as well as the Ministry of Science and Environment Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

The topic of the held 2nd FESCC Symposium for the Balkan Region was "New Diagnostic Tools and Quality in Laboratory Medicine". The coordinators of the Symposium were Professors Nada Majkić-Singh, president of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Victor Blaton, president of the FESCC, and Svetlana Ignjatović, president of the Commission of the Society of Medical Biochemists for external quality control. The Symposium and Congress were attended by some 400 medical biochemists from Serbia and other Balkan countries.

The 2nd FESCC Symposium was organized in such a way as to have four parts. In the first part of the Symposium under the title "New Diagnostic Tools in Clinical Chemistry" the application of new diagnostic techniques such as SELDI-TOF MS, 2 D-HPLC and protein microarrays was proposed in lectures such as "Application of SELDI-TOF MS in Protein Profiling: Promises and Pitfalls" (given by Prof. Marja M. P. van Dieijen-Visser, Maastricht, Netherlands); "Application of 2 D-HPLC System for Plasma Protein Separation" (by Dr. Isabela Levreri, Genova, Italy), and „xMAP technologz as a new tool for clinical and immunological diagnostics“ (by Dr Wolfgang Gubisch, Austria).

In the second part the application of biomarkers of diseases according to the principles of evidence-based medicine was discussed (Prof. Svetlana Ignjatović, Belgrade, Serbia), supported by outstanding examples relating to the cardiac natriuretic peptide, complexed PSA and HER-2 neu and the bone markers in lectures "Cardiac Natriuretic Peptides in Risk Assessment of Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction of Congestive Heart Failure" (Prof. Johannes Mair, Innsbruck, Austria), "Complexed PSA (CPSA) and Serum HER-2 neu: Clinical Aspects Using These Serum Markers in Prostate and Breast Cancer (Prof. Rainer Neumann, Germany), and "The Clinical Value of the Biochemical Markers of Bone Remodeling in Assessment of Bone Metabolic Diseases" (Prof. Jan Stepan, Prague, Czech Republic).

In the third part of the Symposium titled "Application of Quality Indicators in a Medical Laboratory" the following lectures were given: "The Quality of the Sample and its Impact on Clinical Decisions" (Dr. Duško Mirković, Belgrade, Serbia) and "ISO 15189 and Interlaboratory Comparison Programs" (Dr. Jakub Hejsek, Czech Republic), as well as a discourse about "Modern Sample Management" (Dr. Sanja Stanković, Belgrade, Serbia).

In the fourth part of the Symposium, "Round Table Discussion on Presented Topics", the opportunities for applying new techniques and the awareness of the principles of evidence-based laboratory medicine in the Balkan region were discussed, as well as the need for organizing further education of laboratory staff along those lines. As the third part of the Symposium, relating to the application of Quality Control Indicators in Medical Laboratories, in a way followed the discourses given in the 1st FESCC Symposium (Belgrade, June 2005), it was concluded that during the next FESCC Symposiums for the Balkan region all aspects of introducing and maintaining quality in laboratories should be discussed, at the same time analyzing the situation in the countries of the Balkan region.

Participants of the Symposium rated the 2nd FESCC Symposium as having high quality, recommending that they be held on a regular basis, organized by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the FESCC.

The XV Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, held after the 2nd FESCC Symposium, was organized through seven plenary and poster sections, which dealt with the questions of genomes and proteomes, contemporary aspects of the atherothrombotic disease, biochemical markers of diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cardiac markers, methods in clinical chemistry and proteins and enzymes. Along with the Congress, several workshops of various companies were organized, as well as an exhibition showing apparatuses and equipment.

Vic Blaton
President FESCC

AFCB (ARAB FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOLOGY)

The XI AFCB congress and VII Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association, SCLA was held in Damascus 29 April – 2May 2006. The congress had attracted about 2000 participants from Syria and various Arab Countries. More than 30 invited speakers had presented their experience and knowledge to wide audience with mosaic background. The IFCC had supported this activity by sponsoring the travel of some speakers. The Scientific Division of the IFCC had its meeting in Damascus; in addition the Executive Board of FESCC had also held a meeting in Damascus. The Editorial Board of CCLM had the opportunity to meet with various representatives of AFCB members.

AFCB had held its council meeting in Damascus during the XI congress and had elected new Executive Board, Dr. F. Harb (Syria) President, Dr. Y. Belto (Jordan) Vice-President, Dr. I. Itani (Lebanon) Secretary and Dr. H. El Alami (Morocco) Treasurer. The council had chosen Beirut, Lebanon to hold the XII AFCB Congress and Morocco to hold the XIII Congress.

The Tunisian Society had held their annual conference during the second half of May 2006. A workshop on the application of Molecular Biology was organised in collabo-

ration with Professor M. Ferrari, Chair of the Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum. Several scientists from various Arab Countries were given the opportunity to participate in this workshop. The Tunisian Society had sponsored the accommodation of one young scientist from each member country.

Several young scientists from AFCB countries had participated in the Molecular Biology Course which is organised by the Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC) in Milan. The course is partially sponsored by IFCC and ROCHE.

The Jordanian Society had held a conference in Amman, Jordan 29 August – 2 September 2006. Several topics were discussed through Workshops and Symposia. The topics included Infectious Disease, Safety in Laboratory Medicine, Accreditation in Health Laboratory and Laboratory Management & Quality Assurance. Invited speakers from various AFCB members and other countries had enriched the scientific programme of the conference. IFCC has been presented by Dr. Ken Sikaris, Chair of the Analytical Quality Committee., C-AQ who delivered several lectures and a workshop on Accreditation in Medical Laboratories.

Representatives from Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia had participated in the third Francophone meeting which was held in Paris November 2006 under the auspices of the French Society.

The Sudanese Society had held their first meeting 24 – 26 November 2006 with participation from various AFCB members. Many topics were presented including Accreditation, Quality Assurance, Malaria Infectious Disease and Molecular Biology. The EB of AFCB had held their second meeting in Khartoum, Sudan during the conference.

The Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association had actively participated in the Arab Mediterranean Diabetic Societies Conference which was held in Latakia, Syria in the first week of November 2006 and also in the Osteoporosis Conference which was held in Aleppo, Syria during the second week of December 2006.

The Egyptian Society had postponed its annual meeting which usually held during December of each year to January 2007 to avoid confrontation with various Islamic and Christian Holidays.

The Continuous Education Programme was conducted in Tunisia and Syria through workshops, symposia and monthly plenary lectures which covered various topics in Laboratory Medicine and other Medical Specialities.

Finally, the Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association, SCLA had held local election to elect new Executive Committees in all Syrian Counties and a New Executive Board for SCLA. The following colleagues were elected as member of the Executive Board for 2007 – 1010. Dr. G. Shannan, President, Dr. K. Kebbewar, Vice-President, Dr. F. Harb, Secretary and Dr. E. Shaheen, Treasurer.

DR. Fouad Harb
President AFCB
Arab Federation of Clinical Biology

CONGRESS AND CONFERENCE DIVISION (CCD)

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

The next IFCC International Congress (XX ICCCLM) will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil from

September 28 – October 2, 2008. This congress will be hosted by the Brazilian Society of Clinical Analyses (SBAC). The XX ICCCLM will be held concurrently with the XXXV Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analyses and the VIII Brazilian Congress of Clinical Cytology. The main working bodies of the congress have been established. Emmezeta Congressi will arrange the exhibition. The Chairman of the Congress organizing committee and current SBAC President is Professor Ulisses Tuma. Professor Tuma is also a new member of the Congress and Conference Division. The International Scientific Committee Chairman is Professor Paolo Mocarelli from Italy.

The IFCC WorldLab Berlin 2011 (XXI ICCCLM) will be held concurrently with the IFCC –FESCC EuroMedLab May 15 – 20, 2011 in Berlin, Germany. This congress will be hosted by the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DKGL). The scientific secretariat is chaired by Prof. Dr. Rudolf Tauber and Prof. Dr. Harald Renz. The organizing secretariat is Emmezeta Congressi.

One of the major responsibilities for CCD during 2006 was finalizing proposals for IFCC symposia at the Fortaleza 2008 congress and assisting the organizing committee for Fortaleza in various logistical matters.

REGIONAL CONGRESSES

There are four regions associated with IFCC structure and each of the regional federation organizes their own Regional Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (RCCCLM). The next European RCCCLM, the 17th IFCC-FESCC EuroMedLab will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 3 – 7, 2007. Its' theme is "Your future in patient care". The organizing committee President is Prof. Gerard T B Sanders and the International Scientific Steering Committee President is Prof. M A Blankenstein.

Organization for the 18th IFCC-FESCC EuroMedLab is well underway. This congress will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, June 7 – 11, 2009. The executive manager of the congress is Dr. Andrea Griesmacher and the organizing secretariat is Emmezeta Congressi.

The XVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) was held in Asuncion, Paraguay, April 4 -7, 2006. Many IFCC Divisions and the EB met during this Congress which had excellent attendance from delegates across Latin America, Europe and North America. The next COLABIOCLI congress is scheduled for Panama City, Panama in November-December of 2007.

The XI Arab Congress of Clinical Biology was held in Damascus, Syria April 29 – May 2, 2006. This congress was chaired by Dr. Ghassan Shannan, current IFCC Treasurer and was a success. The IFCC SD held a division executive meeting during this congress. The XII Arab Congress of Clinical Biology is scheduled for Beirut, Lebanon in 2009.

The next Asia Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry Congress, the 11th Asian

Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry, will be held in Beijing, China October 14 – 19, 2007. Many IFCC working groups will be meeting during this Congress. The 12th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry will be held in Korea in 2010.

IFCC SPECIALISED CONFERENCES

The 11th Bergmeyer Congress will be held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany in March 2008. Professor Istvan Vermes serves as CCD representative on the steering committee for this congress sponsored by Roche Diagnostics.

IFCC has a new agreement with Ortho Clinical Diagnostics to sponsor a new conference in alternate years. The general title of this conference series will be: “*Disease and the Clinical Laboratory*”. Development of this conference and plans for the first conference are underway in 2007.

CONGRESSES WITH IFCC AUSPICES

CCD provides IFCC Auspices to high quality conferences in the area of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. This arrangement is mutually beneficial for IFCC Member societies and meeting planners. It enables IFCC to promote congresses of interest to its members and strengthens the IFCC image as supporting high level laboratory science. The organizers of congresses much publicity through the information channels of IFCC. During 2006, IFCC Auspices were awarded to twenty-one congresses and specialised conferences.

MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

CCD held two executive committee meetings in 2006. The first meeting was held in Asuncion, Paraguay, April 4 – 7, 2006 during the XVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI). The second meeting was held at the IFCC office in Milan in November 2006.

Two changes in CCD membership took place at the beginning of 2006. Andreas Rothstein (CO) completed this term of office as a CCD member. CCD warmly acknowledges the great contributions of Andreas to the congress and conference activities of IFCC. Our new member is Professor Ulisses Tuma from Brazil. Ulisses is Chairman of the Organizing Committee for IFCC WorldLab 2008 Fortaleza and President of the Brazilian Society of Clinical Analyses.

Istvan Vermes (NL) was appointed to a second term as CCD member and secretary. Tomris Ozben (TK) and Sunil Sethi (SG) continued their first term as members of CCD in 2006 representing the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology and the Asian Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry, respectively.

IFCC GENERAL CONFERENCE

IFCC member societies and corporate members were sent questionnaires in 2005 and 2006 concerning various aspects of the IFCC General Conferences. The responses were collated by CCD and a summary submitted to the EB for their consideration. Due to the large number of congresses in 2007, the next IFCC General Conference will be held in Antalya, Turkey, April 15 to 16, 2008.

CCD looks forward to working with the scientific and organising committees of upcoming IFCC congresses in 2007.

Albert D. Fraser
CCD Chair

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION (SD)

During 2006, the following members served on the SD Executive Committee: Mauro Panteghini (Italy) (Chair), Ian Young (UK), (Vice-Chair), Howard Morris (Australia) (Secretary), Philippe Gillery (France), Lothar Siekmann (Germany), Ulf-Hakan Stenman (Finland), Rolf Hinzmann (Germany) (corporate representative), and Matthias Muller (AT) (EB-Liaison). Three representatives of International Organizations are invited to attend the Scientific Division meetings as consultants: Jean-Claude Forest (JCTLM), Heinz Schimmel (IRMM) and David Bunk (NIST). Two meetings were held during the year 2006: April 28-29 (Damascus, Syria in conjunction with the 11th AFCB Congress) and September 30-October 1 (Milan, Italy).

RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The SD has pursued the expansion of its activities to partner with international organizations to promote the implementation of the concept of traceability in laboratory medicine and the implementation of reference measurement systems.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRACEABILITY IN LABORATORY MEDICINE (JCTLM)

The JCTLM has now been working for 5 years and is well advanced in preparing a database of metrologically-sound, higher order methods and materials together with a list of reference laboratory service providers that relate to the In Vitro Diagnostic sector. The Working Group (WG) 1 on Reference Measurement Procedures and Reference Materials continues its program of identifying and reviewing against agreed criteria (ISO standards 15193 and 15194). During its November 2006 meeting, WG1 considered that a further 13 reference materials and 16 reference methods fulfilled the criteria for listing on the database. A periodic review of the WG1 Quality Manual will be conducted during 2007. WG2 on Reference Laboratory Services has reviewed the Cycle 1 nominations against agreed criteria and final recommendations will be submitted to the JCTLM Secretariat by February 2007.

INSTITUTE FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL AND MEASUREMENT (IRMM)

Close collaboration with IRMM continues with practical joint ventures. Progress continues to be made for projects including aspartate aminotransferase (AST), myoglobin, a new preparation of CRM470, and HbA0/HbA1c reference materials.

CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE (CLSI) (FORMERLY NCCLS)

The good working relationship between CLSI and IFCC continues. Joint projects with CLSI are reviewed on a regular basis. The document on "Analysis of Body Fluids in Clinical Laboratory" (C49) has been published. The document "Implementation Guide of POCT1 for Healthcare Providers" (POCT2) has been completed and reviewed by SD.

Current ongoing joint CLSI/IFCC projects include the following: How to Define and Determine Reference Intervals in the Clinical Laboratory; Mass Spectrometry in the Clinical Laboratory; Expression of Uncertainty of Measurement in Clinical Laboratory Medicine; Validate and Implement Secondary Reference Materials; Verification of Comparability of Patient Results within one Healthcare System; Immunological As-

says for Human Immunoglobulin E (IgE) Antibodies of Defined Allergen Specificities; Determining Clinical Utility of Genetic Tests; Implementation Guide of POCT1 for Manufacturers; Interference with Immunoassay Results by Heterophilic Antibodies and Other Binders.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST)

A large number of projects are underway at NIST, a number of which are of considerable interest to IFCC. Standard Reference Materials (SRM) recently released include; Calcium Carbonate, Bovine Serum Albumin, Electrolytes in Frozen Human Serum, Toxic Metals in Bovine Blood, Fat-Soluble Vitamins, Carotenoids, and Cholesterol in Human Serum, Inorganic Constituents in Animal Serum, Homocysteine and Folate in Frozen Human Serum.

A further group of SRMs to be released in the near future include: Cholesterol, Creatinine in Frozen Human Serum, Non-peptide Hormones in Frozen Human Serum, Lead in Bovine Blood, Vitamin B6 in Frozen Human Serum, Vitamin B12 in Frozen Human Serum, and Arsenic Species in Frozen Human Urine.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

The SD will participate in the XXth International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine to be held September 28 – October, 2 2008 in Fortaleza, Brasil on an official basis organizing two symposia; “Achieving Standardization in Laboratory Medicine – A Hard but Feasible Task” and “Quality Assurance in Emerging Technologies”.

REGIONAL AND OTHER CONGRESSES

The SD participated in the 11th Arab Federation of Clinical Biology Congress held April 29 – May 2, 2006 in Damascus, Syria, organizing a symposium: “Application of ISO Standards in Laboratory Medicine”. Symposia offered by the SD have been accepted for presentation at the Congress of the Tunisian Society of Clinical Biology (May 2007), 17th FESCC-IFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (Euromedlab 2007, June 2 – 7, 2007, topics will be: “Standardization in Laboratory Medicine: the way forward” and “The Contribution of Laboratory Medicine in Kidney Disease”), 11th Asia Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (October 14 – 17, 2007, the topic will be: “Traceability in Laboratory Medicine: What Does It Mean in Daily Practice?”).

ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Committees (Cs), which are theme-oriented, carry out much of the scientific and professional activities of SD. Their work is often in close collaboration with other international organizations. For more specific tasks, the activities are usually accomplished through Working Groups (WGs). During last SD meeting held in Milan, the SD EC had the opportunity to meet with the Chairs of C-PP, C-RIDL and WG-HbA2.

COMMITTEES

C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

This IFCC/IUPAC C is responsible for the maintenance of the generic database, which is published on the IFCC (SD/C-NPU page) and IUPAC (Division of Chemistry and Human Health) homepages. The database is undergoing a restructuring of its

contents and a mapping to SNOMED CT system. The cost of hosting it on the IFCC server is being assessed in order that IFCC can finalize its decision. A paper on recommendations for name and units for HbA1c was prepared and is currently under ballot by the National Societies. Revision of ENV 1614 was published in collaboration with CEN/TC 251.

The 3rd edition of VIM is under editorial revision by all participating organizations and it is anticipated to be finalized in early 2007. Current projects underway include the following: Properties and units for function examinations; Properties and units for urinary calculi; Global use of the C-NPU concept system for properties in toxicology (finalized and under review for publication); Internationally agreed terminology for observations in scientific communication; Mapping of IFCC-IUPAC laboratory coding system to SNOMED CT; Securing and structural updating of information in the NPU coding system and its environment; Recent advances in Nomenclature, Properties and Units: strategy for promoting C-NPU achievements; Translation of C-NPU database elements and properties into French.

C-Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD)

A document is in preparation describing the concept of IFCC Molecular Diagnostic Centres (MDC) of expertise which will include the requested characteristics and expected duties towards the international laboratory community. It is anticipated that a call for applications will be posted shortly on the IFCC web site as well as sent to the National Society Representatives.

The C has decided that, given the numerous other organizations active in the development and validation of nucleic acid reference materials, it will not pursue this activity for the moment. It is however expected that the IFCC MDC network will actively participate in this area either by initiating projects or by collaborating with existing or future initiatives from other entities. The IFCC web site will host the Consortium on Clinical Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Standards (CLGGS, formerly IMGCLS) web site that will be reviewed by C-MD. This should be initiated in January 2007. A task force will be created to propose Reference Methods in Molecular Diagnostics as a specific project.

A formal document was prepared on behalf of IFCC to provide comments to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on its "Draft Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Molecular Genetic Testing".

C-Plasma Proteins (C-PP)

The preparation of the new lot of CRM470 is the main priority of the C; characterization and certification of the new material will begin in 2007.

The possibility of using world-wide, common reference intervals for plasma proteins in multiple racial and ethnic groups has been explored, but is not possible at this time because of persisting concentration/calibration differences among the protein assays from the different manufacturers. The C has developed a simplified protocol for transferring values from reference material CRM470 to commercial protein assays. A preliminary version of it was made available on the IFCC web site. C-PP is now revising this document and the new version will be available in few months. A position paper on clinical indication for transthyretin will soon be published in Clin Chem Lab Med.

Other projects for 2007 are: (1) collaboration with CDT, cystatin C and urinary albumin WGs; (2) preparation of a document on the measurement of serum free light chains in the clinical context. The C-PP will also maintain its interest in proteomics.

C-Standardization of Markers of Cardiac Damage (C-SMCD)

A preliminary study to validate the cross-reactivity of commercial BNP and NT-proBNP assays with BNP, proBNP and NT-proBNP antigens has been completed. The analysis of these data was considered most promising and it has been decided to conduct a formal, multi-centre study with the protocol developed from the preliminary study. Corporate members have committed their support for the study. A protocol for the standardization of cTnl assays including candidate secondary reference materials has been prepared. A table of properties of commercial cardiac troponin assays has been posted on the IFCC web site (SD/C-SMCD page). It is aimed to continue to build the database with the inclusion of package insert and literature-based information. The C is working to establish a reference serum bank to be used for the establishment of reference intervals in subjects without cardiac disease for established and developing cardiac troponin assays as well as new cardiac biomarkers. A secondary reference material has been selected for myoglobin in close collaboration with IRMM. IRMM is continuing to work on the reference method for the certification of the selected material (IRMM/IFCC 458) as well as to further characterise this material.

C-Reference Systems for Enzymes (C-RSE)

Work on standardisation of the Amylase determination was completed with the publication of the reference method. A feasibility study for a proposed reference procedure for alkaline phosphatase (ALP) is underway including the assessment of the suitability of deep-frozen pooled human sera or processed lyophilized sera for use as control materials. Discussions with the C-RIDL are underway to develop reference intervals for ALP at the same time that the reference procedure is under development. The Enzyme network has agreed on the budget of uncertainty of measurements for enzymes.

C-Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)

A recommendation on accuracy and precision of POCT relative to central laboratory testing performance has been submitted to the SD while work is continuing on the document "Recommendation for Blood Glucose POCT Quality Assessment in Clinical Setting". New projects initiated during 2006 included developing guidelines on the pre-analytical processes for POCT; establishment of a database on potential interferents for POCT, and preparation of a curriculum for training in POCT to be implemented in collaboration with EMD and the AACC POCT Division.

C-Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM)

The main reference of C-TLM is to support reference laboratories in the context of complete reference systems (accepted reference measurement procedures of higher order, reference materials, and reference laboratories), by establishing an External Quality Assessment Schemes (EQAS) for reference laboratories in order to monitor their competence.

A procedure manual for conducting EQAS has been developed and posted on the IFCC website home page, under the DGKL logo. This website enables registration for newly participating laboratories, orders for participation in forthcoming EQAS, entering of results from laboratories, inspection of recent EQAS results and provides information on forthcoming EQAS.

A Model for the Description of Acceptance Performance Criteria in the IFCC EQAS has been proposed for discussion.

C-Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL)

The activity of the C has developed in two directions: 1. theoretical, through the collaboration with CLSI for the revision of CLSI document C28-A2 "How to Define and Determine Reference Intervals in the Clinical Laboratory; Approved Guideline - 2nd Edition"; 2. practical, preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the definition of multi-center reference intervals and organization of a pilot experiment for the definition of reference intervals of AST, ALT and γ GT. The document has been prepared and approved by SD. The SOP is based on the use of carefully calibrated, traceable routine methods to obtain results from a relatively large number of subjects allowing the production of reference intervals that take into account not only age and gender but also race and other variables. These intervals will be applicable in every laboratory that uses similar methods and serves similar populations.

WORKING GROUPS

WG-Selective Electrodes and Biosensors (WG-SEB)

Current projects include preparation of Recommendations on pH measurement in blood (an update), Recommendation of the reference bovine hemoglobin control material for the evaluation of trueness of the routine measurement of total hemoglobin and the three hemoglobin derivatives (O₂Hb, COHb and MetHb) in human blood, and Recommendation for measuring and reporting lactate by electrochemical biosensors in undiluted serum, plasma or blood.

WG-Apolipoproteins (WG-A)

Technical issues remain to be resolved with regard to the characterisation of SP3-08 Apo B reference material. Particularly, these issues relate to ISO standard 15194 requirements for uncertainty information.

The WG Chair is currently coordinating the NACB project for Guidelines on Cardiovascular Risk Markers.

WG-Standardization of Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (WG-SHCG)

The WG is continuing to gather evidence about the appropriateness (or otherwise) of commercially available hCG assays for use in oncology. Most of these methods are approved only for use in pregnancy, a regulatory issue of major concern to clinical laboratories using the tests to monitor cancer patients. Another issue is the frequency of false positive and false negative results in assays for hCG and their clinical implication. Recommendations about appropriate action to be taken by user laboratories – to both identify and to remedy such errors - are being developed. The availability of an accepted reference method for HCG would effectively address both the above issues. A study involving a WG member has shown mass spectrometric fingerprinting to be highly useful for the characterization of glycosylation patterns of different hCG preparations, including the WHO Reference Reagents prepared by the WG. This work represents an important step towards establishing biophysical reference method for hCG. The WG is considering how best to take this forward, building on previous work both of the IFCC WG and of the hCG Antibody Workshop held under the auspices of the International Society for Oncodevelopmental Medicine (ISOBM). It will almost certainly be necessary to recruit new members of the WG with additional expertise if a reference method for hCG is to be developed. A manuscript on the implications for between-method comparability with the use of the six International Reference Reagents previously prepared by the WG will be ready for submission early in 2007.

WG-Standardization of HbA1c (WG-HbA1c)

The network of HbA1c reference laboratories has published a number of manuscripts on rules for value assignment to secondary reference materials used by manufacturers for standardization of routine HbA1c assays. Discussions on the clinical implementation of HbA1c standardization between the WG and representatives of the professional and clinical organizations including IDF, ADA and EASD have continued. Preliminary data generated by these organizations on the relationship between measured HbA1c and calculated Average Blood Glucose has been presented during the IDF meeting held in Cape Town - South Africa, in December 2006. The WG is preparing a paper summarizing its position on the global glycohemoglobin standardization. The inaugural Chair of the WG (Dr Kor Miedema) has stepped down and a new Chair, Dr Garry John (UK), has been elected.

WG-Standardisation of Thyroid Function Tests (WG-STFT)

Work is focussed on standardization of the total and free thyroxine (T4) assays. A manuscript has been prepared as an IFCC position paper on the definition of the free T4 measurand and submitted for publication. Considerable progress has been made with the development of a sensitive equilibrium dialysis-ID-LC/tandem MS assay as a higher order measurement procedure for free T4. A second candidate reference laboratory for free T4 measurement has been identified in Japan, in addition to the first one located in Belgium. Discussion is underway with the American Thyroid Association and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists on the standardization work. It is hoped that these discussions will be expanded to other countries and relevant organizations. The aim is to establish a consensus forum of clinical, laboratory and industry representatives to plan and coordinate the standardization process.

WG-Standardization of Hemoglobin A₂ (WG-HbA₂)

Development of the reference method in two laboratories has progressed significantly with all technical issues being resolved. A manuscript describing the candidate reference method and the SOP are currently being prepared. A manuscript was accepted for publication describing the pre-analytical variability of HbA₂ measurement. Expressions of interest have been received from almost all the relevant manufacturers and discussions are underway with IRMM regarding the protocol for preparation of reference materials.

WG-Standardisation of Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin (WG-CDT)

A manuscript defining the measurand for CDT as disialotransferrin has been accepted for publication. A candidate reference material (serum matrix spiked with known amounts of purified human disialotransferrin) is being evaluated. Future work will focus on development of primary reference method, using mass spectrometry. Lastly, consideration is being given to assembling a network of CDT reference laboratories.

WG-Standardisation of Cystatin C Assays (WG-SCC)

A candidate secondary reference material is in preparation. Recombinant human cystatin C is available of appropriate quality suitable for spiking this material. The pilot preparation is currently being tested for stability, homogeneity between ampoules and other relevant properties. This project is carried out in collaboration with IRMM.

WG-Standardisation of Glomerular Filtration Rate Assessment (WG-GFRA)

The WG current projects are: 1. In cooperation with the US National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP), develop guidelines to coordinate the global introduction of standardized creatinine measurements, together with the new (revised) MDRD GFR estimating equation. 2. Educate laboratory professionals regarding the importance of assessing chronic kidney disease. 3. Prepare an IFCC recommendation for the use of specific assays for creatinine measurement. 4. In cooperation with C-TLM, establish an IFCC reference laboratory network for creatinine

The final NKDEP recommendations were posted on the NKDEP web site and can also be accessed from the IFCC web site home page.

The WG is preparing a study designed to evaluate specificity among commercially available creatinine methods.

WG-Standardisation of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SMA)

The initial aim of the WG was first to proceed with harmonization rather than standardization of the albumin measurements in urine and a joint JSCC-IFCC WG was proposed. The JSCC had been investigating the preparation of human serum albumin for over five years and this project is now incorporated into the National Standardization Scheme, sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Industry (National Methodology Institute) and JCCLS, and supported by the Ministry of Education. This proposal for collaboration between the JSCC and the WG has not proceeded further at this stage although future collaboration will be considered. Recently the NKDEP Laboratory WG indicated an interest to address urine albumin standardization including standardization of the measurement of the albumin:creatinine ratio in urine. Representatives of the WG are participating in planning a meeting to be held in March 2007, with joint chairmanship from IFCC SD and the US NKDEP. The WG also proposes to prepare an IFCC position paper on urine albumin measurements.

WG-Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein A (WG-PAPPA)

The current Chair has resigned and a new Chair will be appointed in 2007. There is the possibility that essential materials for standardization, such as recombinant PAPP-A, will be available.

WG-Growth Hormone (WG-GH)

Membership of the WG has been assembled and a consensus statement was supported advocating an informal International Collaboration of parties interested in GH standardisation and adoption of a single calibrant with results expressed in mass units. This was published in the European Journal of Endocrinology and also published in Clinical Endocrinology. Close collaboration with national and international EQAS will also be undertaken. It is planned to explore the possibility of undertaking an antibody-mapping project for GH similar to that previously undertaken for hCG.

Project Proposals

Two project proposals have been received and dealt with during 2006. One has been accepted and a joint IFCC/ADA WG on Standardisation of Insulin Assays (WG-SIA) has been created, with the IFCC nominating two representatives.

EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

GENERAL REMARKS

The Division has gone through a considerable amount of change during 2006, with new members being appointed to the Executive Committee. However, the work of the Division has continued through its Committees, its Working Groups and the Visiting Lecturer Programme. The focus of the work of the Division has remained primarily on the needs of developing countries.

ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

The Division had its main meeting of 2006 in Milan, in June. The Division met there as a whole, and several Committees took the opportunity to meet alongside this meeting.

Each Committee and Working Group presented :

- an overview of activities
- future plans, activities and meetings
- potential collaborations within the Division
- membership issues
- budgetary requirements
- other relevant issues

COMMITTEES

EMD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

In 2006 the Executive Committee of the Division consisted of Chair : GTB Sanders (NL), till June 2006, J Smith (UK), since June 2006; Members: M Burritt (US), L Lai (MY).

Janet Smith assumed the chairmanship of the Division at the June meeting, on the retirement of Gerard Sanders, who should be congratulated on leading the Division so effectively. Leo Vankrieken resigned as Corporate Representative in January 2006, due to a change of employment. His successor will be Rolf Hinzmann (Sismex, DE) whose formal term of office begins in January 2007, although he has attended EC meetings since the summer of 2006. Stella Raymondo of Uruguay has been appointed for membership of EC, the term beginning in January 2007.

ACTIVITIES: The EC met in Milan in January and an informal meeting was held during the AACCC Congress in Chicago. Although 2006 was a year of change as described above, activities such as the Visiting Lecturer programme and Committee activities ensured that EMD fulfilled its objectives of supporting educational activities in developing countries. The EC put forward a proposal to establish a working group on the development of quality systems, with a view to organizing workshops at national and international congresses. Again, this would be aimed primarily at developing countries. A workshop on the subject has been accepted for the Fortaleza Congress.

The EC will next meet in January 2007, in Milan. This will provide an opportunity to discuss new IFCC initiatives and report back to the EB. These include :

- Enhancing PR in IFCC
- Integrated Projects
- EQA and Accreditation in Developing Countries
- Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety

- Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine and Laboratory Tests

COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY CURRICULUM (C-CMBC)

Chair : M. Ferrari (IT); Members: S. Kraiss (US), H. Sprecher (IL), M. Neumaier (DE)

ACTIVITIES: Molecular Biology teaching and training of trainers. Courses in Clinical Molecular Biology Techniques:

- April 2006 Damascus
- April 2006 Asuncion
- 4th Course July 2006 Milan

Symposia and lectures at International Congresses :

- November 2006 Romania Lecture
- November 2006 Indonesia Symposium

In progress: organization of symposia in the following meetings:

- May 2007 Tunisia Symposium
- June 2007 Euromedlab Amsterdam Lecture
- October 2007 Beijing Symposium

COMMITTEE ON ANALYTICAL QUALITY (C-AQ)

Activities: As part of the Visiting Lecturer Programme, Ken Sikaris undertook a programme of lectures in Nigeria at the end of 2005. The programme was well received but the visit highlighted some logistical problems that can arise when traveling to developing countries.

Planned activities :

- Amsterdam : June 2007 – Euromedlab post congress IFCC/EQALM Joint Meeting

This is one of the major activities of the C-AQ for 2007 and a high quality programme with excellent speakers has been organized. It is hoped that this will attract EQA organizers from around the world, and could dovetail into the proposed initiative for IFCC to support and promulgate EQA and accreditation in developing countries. The significant contribution of the C-AQ to the planning and organization of this meeting has persuaded EQALM to make this meeting a joint one with IFCC.

The C-AQ will meet in Amsterdam during the Euromedlab congress in June.

COMMITTEE ON EVIDENCE BASED LABORATORY MEDICINE (C-EBLM)

This Committee remains highly active in terms of both its critical appraisal activities, which have resulted in several high quality publications and more are in progress and its contributions to conferences, courses and workshops. As part of the VLP programme, Rita Horvath is about to begin the first part of a series of talks and workshops in the Asian Pacific region. The scope of the Committee is extensive and its corresponding members make a major active contribution to its work. The C-EBLM also works closely with other international bodies, such as the Cochrane collaboration.

Current projects

- 1 Critical appraisal of diagnostic guidelines in diabetes mellitus. A major Committee publication will be submitted at the end of 2006.

- 2 Microalbuminuria survey. How GPs interpret lab test results and use evidence-based guideline recommendations in practice.
- 3 Critical appraisal of NACB POCT guidelines.
- 4 Critical appraisal of NACB Tumour Marker guidelines.
- 5 Systematic review of colorectal cancer screening.
- 6 Systematic review of thyroid monitoring.
- 7 Reviewing book chapters and pilot review protocols for the Cochrane Diagnostic Reviews project in collaboration with the Cochrane DST-Methods Group.

Committee Members participated in the following Conferences

- April 2006 Asuncion, Paraguay
- April 2006 Bratislava, Slovakia
- April 2006 Örebro, Sweden
- September 2006 Mykonos, Greece

Workshops and Courses

- October 2006 Budapest

In addition, workshops have been held in association with other bodies, including the Cochrane Collaboration. A full day workshop on the art of evidence based medicine, involving members of C-EBLM, was presented at the AACC meeting in July and received an excellent evaluation score GIN/WHO Regional Symposium on Guidelines – under IFCC auspices

Planned symposia and lectures at international conferences

- June 2007 Amsterdam, Euromedlab
- October 2007 Beijing, APFCB

Planned courses and workshops

- June 2007 Amsterdam, Euromedlab - pre-congress workshop

The possibility of a second IFCC course on EBLM, in Budapest or elsewhere in the Balkan region, is being considered. Rita Horvath will undertake the second part of the VLP to the Asian Pacific region in the autumn of 2007. This will coincide with the APFCB congress.

The C-EBLM is anxious that its updated website contents should be uploaded to the new IFCC website. It is also hoped that the database of systematic reviews in laboratory medicine can form part of the website.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (C-ECD)

Activities: The major project of the Committee is on the development of the web pages and there has been considerable progress with this, with the help and support of Craig Webster and Paola Bramati. The target for completion of this work is December 2006. Work is ongoing on defining syllabus content and providing guidance on good website sources for each topic. It is hoped this will help students who do not have access to textbooks. The Committee is also seeking to identify formal distance-learning courses which are internet-based and has set up a network of contacts to advise on different geographical areas. A third project is to increase awareness of interactive case presentations and to develop cases for inclusion of the C-ECD website.

COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT (C-CLM)

This relatively new Committee is concentrating on the needs of members in developing countries in terms of basic management skills and laboratory management. To address this, Committee members are preparing guidelines, which it is hoped can be published as an IFCC monograph. The guidelines will cover :

- Total Laboratory Management & Accreditation based on ISO 15189.
- Setting up a clinical laboratory under difficult circumstances.
- Basic concepts of Laboratory Information Systems.

To complement this, the Committee will organize and present workshops and symposia at international congresses. The following are planned for 2007.

- June 2007 Tunisia Symposium
- October 2007 Beijing Symposium

WORKING GROUP on EPO (WG-EPO)

The work of this WG is now complete and the WG has been closed.

WORKING GROUP on DISTANCE LEARNING

The work of this group is closely linked to that of C-ECD and the EC will consider at its meeting in January whether it should be closed and the work become part of the responsibility of C-ECD.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

VISITING LECTURERS PROGRAM (VLP)

Sponsors: DPC and Dade-Behring

The VLP has been excellently managed by Mary Burritt since its inception and she should be congratulated on its success. She has now relinquished the chair of this special project and Leslie Lai has succeeded her.

The following lecturers to developing countries have been supported during the year.

Dr Ken Sikaris presented lectures at the annual meeting of the Nigerian Association of Clinical Chemistry in Clabar Cross River State, South East Nigeria, November 23 – 24, 2006. Subjects included QC/QA and external proficiency testing.

Dr Rosa Sierra Amor (Mexico) presented lectures at the XVII COLABIOCLI meeting in Paraguay in April 2006. Subjects included ISO #15189 and total quality management, bone markers and pre-analytical variables.

Dr Matthew McQueen presented lectures at the ArabMedLab, XI AFCB & VII SCLA Congress in Damascus, Syria April 29– May 2. Subjects included the global risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes and analytical and clinical challenges for the measurement and clinical interpretation of microalbumin in urine.

Dr Alejandro Ruiz-Arguelles presented lectures for the Chilean National Society, in Vina del Mar and Santiago, August 30 – September 2, 2006. Subjects included the clinical laboratory in the cytomics era and flow cytometry in immunohaematology.

Professor Rita Horvath has visited India, Malaysia and Indonesia as a first part of her

programme of lectures and workshops in the Asian Pacific region. The second part will take place in 2007.

COURSES COURSE ON FLOW CYTOMETRY

Activities: The Group is planning a further course in 2007. Potential topics which could be covered in the programme include technical issues such as cell enrichment technologies for rare cell analysis, proteomic characterisation of the immune response and applications of flow cytometry in rare cell analysis e.g. the characterisation of haemopoietic stem and progenitor cells.

The courses have been run collaboratively with the University of Bremen and Beckman Coulter. It is anticipated that this will continue.

Janet M Smith
Chair EMD

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

Five committee meetings were held in 2006, three by telephone conference call and two face-to-face meetings. April 2006 (teleconference), Asuncion April 2006 (full committee meeting), September 2006 (teleconference), and Birmingham Nov 2006 (full committee meeting). A CPD workshop was included in the program of the Paraguay meeting and featured a total of 4 presentations from CPD members on aspects of distance education, together with updates on the Website and the Newsletter.

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP – EJIFCC

The publication schedule was adhered to, consisting of 4 issues per year (see http://www.ifcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=7&Itemid=), despite the early resignation of David Williams, due to health reasons. Different members of the CPD Executive committee acted as Guest Editors for the different issues.

WORKING GROUP – IFCC NEWS

Ellis Jacobs' term as news editor expired on Dec 31, 2006 and Edgar Delvin was appointed as to be the new editor, starting 1 Jan 2007 (attended the CPD Exec meeting in November.) The change to a publication schedule of 6 issues per year continues to be a success (see http://www.ifcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=0&Itemid=3). Archives of newsletters back to 2001 are now available on the website. This year, with the help of the IFCC President, there has been a series of articles on member countries. The use of editorial articles from each of the various divisions and IFCC officers has been valuable in publicizing the activities of the IFCC, however they have to be more opinion and position papers, not a repeat of the annual report.

Several issues with the relationship between IFCC and LabMedica International have been discussed with the EB and subsequently with Marc Gueron from LMI. In general the IFCC News has to be separate from FESCC and COLABIOCLI sections even though a Federation corner is considered a good idea. Also, editorials submitted by IFCC should be published within the IFCC News section of LMI and all articles. These, as well as other concerns have been discussed with Marc Gueron of LMI.

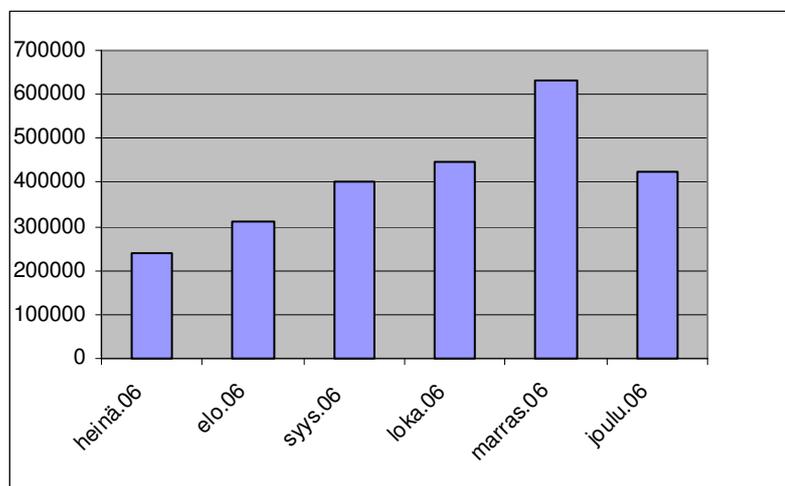
WORKING GROUP – INTERNET AND DISTANT LEARNING

Grazyna Sypniewska became the eJournal editor, this working group was restructured from solely focusing on the website to also encompassing multimedia and distant learning initiatives. A call was Web Editor/Distant Learning Coordinator and Chair of the Internet/Distant learning Working Group was sent out.

There was a web working group meeting held in July in Milan. The IFCC office staff have been heavily involved in the development of the new IFCC website and have been trained to manage the website content, but are not able to handle the technical aspects (e.g. mail and server problems. HTML, etc.). An IT specialist needs to be available to handle the technical aspects of the website.

The upgraded Joomla website was launched on the target date (July 14) and we received a number of comments indicating that navigation is easier and more logical. There have been minor issues with linking to a small number of items on the new site, which was anticipated due to the size, and complexity of the material. These continue to be fixed as they come to light. The distributed editing facility is beginning to be utilized and is working well.

Number of Hits Per Month on the New Website



Most of the content from the old website has been copied across to the new system. The mailing list system is operational and the email addresses have been copied over. In a small number of cases (notably the handbook and Rincon IberoAmericano), the new site links to existing content in its previous form, while the material is being upgraded to the new system. This ensures that they are continuously available, while being updated. However, there have been some delays, in the development of the new pages for: Committee for Molecular Diagnostics, Rincon IberoAmericano, and Education and Curriculum Development.

The 74 national society pages have been created, allowing edit access to their own page for an editor from each society. This will allow them to update their own information and to add material in their own language if they choose to do this. Instructions and passwords will be mailed out to the national societies in the next few weeks.

WORKING GROUP - SPANISH (IBERO-AMERICAN) NOMENCLATURE AND TRANSLATIONS

A meeting of the Working Group - Spanish (Ibero-american) Nomenclature and Translations took place in April in Asuncion. Responsibility for editing the Rincon IberoAmericano web pages has been centralized to the IFCC office. Questions concerning IFCC's commitment to this website have been raised due to the delays in updating the RIA page on the new IFCC website. This concern will be addressed as quickly as possible; with the use of an IT specialist and a new Website Editor.

WORKING GROUP – ENHANCED PR

This is a newly created working group that will be chaired by the new Vice Chair/Public Relations Coordinator. The key role of this WG will be to coordinate activities arising from EB's "Enhancing IFCC Public Relations Initiative." The IFCC Milestones brochure (2003) will be reviewed and updated as necessary as requested by the EB. Other possible projects include establishing (with EMD) a speakers bureau on the website and increasing IFCC visibility at national meetings (booths, representatives).

REPORTS ON PUBLICATIONS

DOCUMENTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS - REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF DOCUMENTS

The database continues to be updated as publications are forthcoming. See appendix 3 for 2006 content list.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Bergmeyer proceedings have been printed and are available from the bookstore.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The podcasts have been discontinued because of production problems. However, it was felt that this format could be used effectively for distance learning projects and may be resurrected in the future. The development of the use of RSS feeds is in progress. An on-line "Meet the Expert" section is being considered as a future internet project.

CORPORATE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

There is a new corporate member, Franz Baumann from Roche Diagnostics.

MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Ellis Jacobs (Chair)

Vacant (Vice-Chair/Public Relations Coordinator)
Peter Lehmann (Secretary/Editor Documents)
Edgar Delvin (Editor IFCC News)
Grazyna Sypniewska (Editor eJIFCC)
Vacant (Website Editor/Distant Learning Coordinator)
Franz Baumann (Corporate Representative)
Joseph Lopez (EB Liaison)

Call for nominations for Vice Chair/PR Coordinator and Website Editor/DL Coordinator went out in late 2006. A call for nominations for Secretary/Editor of Documents will be made in 2007.

BUDGET

Considerable efforts have been made to reduce expenditure without compromising the activities of the Division, which has been successfully accomplished. However, due to the desire to enhance public relations and to increase Distant Learning opportunities, i.e., internet based programs, a significantly increased budget has been requested and approved for the 2007.

Ellis Jacobs
Chair CPD

IFCC PUBLICATIONS 2006

The publications appeared in 2006 as a result of IFCC projects are included in the web version of the 2006 IFCC Annual Report which can be found on the IFCC website at www.ifcc.org

IFCC Annual Report 2006 has been compiled and edited by Päivi Laitinen, Secretary of IFCC from the reports of the respective IFCC Officers and National Societies.