



European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 2014 Annual Report

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EFLM held its Seventh General Assembly (GA) during the 3rd EFLM-UEMS Joint Congress in Liverpool (UK), on Tuesday, 7 October, 2014.

During the GA EFLM President, Prof. Mauro Panteghini (MP) has provided an overview of the recent EFLM activities pointing to some important facts about EFLM: EFLM is an organization with 40 NS members, it represents almost 22,000 laboratory specialists in Europe and its key values are *Transparency, Profession, Education and Quality*.

EFLM Strategic plan (SP) for 2014-2015 was presented. SP has 33 actions related to several different chapters, highlighting main strategic goals and important aspects, such as the assessment of the outcome of activities of the EFLM Committees (C) and Working Groups (WG). C chairs are working closely with the respective WGs in their C to achieve maximum contribution to various aims of the SP.

During the GA, National representatives had the opportunity to discuss with the IFCC President (Graham Beastall) the “Shaping the future of laboratory medicine” proposal as well as the results of the IFCC ballot on Regional representation in the IFCC EB and how will this affect the future of IFCC.

EFLM Treasurer Huib Storm (HS), has reported about the recent EFLM census, according to which there are 22,000 lab professionals within Europe. The financial report and balance were approved.

C-ET chair has informed the GA participants that Warsaw (Poland) has been selected as the host venue for the 4th EFLM-UEMS Joint Congress in 2016.

The next GA will be held in conjunction with the EuroMedLab congress in Paris on 21st June, 2015.

Executive Board

Through the EFLM Program entitle *EFLM Presence at NS meetings*, during 2014, EFLM Executive Board members have participated in the following National society meetings:

1. **Mauro Panteghini**, 12th National Congress of Clinical Chemistry, GREEK SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY-CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, 7-8 November 2014, Greece
2. **Tomas Zima**, 57th National Conference of Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine, 28-30 August 2014, Hungary.
3. **Mauro Panteghini**, National Conference of Clinical Laboratory, Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory, 11-13 September 2014, Bulgaria
4. **Tomas Zima**, XII Baltic Congress in Laboratory Medicine, September 18-20, 2014, Latvia

EFLM EB feel this is an excellent opportunity to strengthen collaboration between EFLM and its member societies. The program will be continued in 2015.

EFLM EB has launched a working group on Harmonization whose aim is to act as a collector of the harmonization initiatives arising from other EFLM WGs and from National Member Societies active in the field and to promote dissemination and application of particular harmonization activities. Through this WG, EFLM will promote the use of harmonized nomenclature for analytes, common reference intervals and the use of amount of substance units in the European countries, wherever and whenever this approach is feasible.

Becton Dickinson has agreed to sponsor the EFLM Walter Guder Preanalytical Award. A contract has been signed to cover 3 subsequent awards (2014, 2016 and 2018). The award is aimed for scientists under 40 years of age who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the preanalytical phase. The 1st award has been presented during the Opening ceremony of the 3rd EFLM-UEMS Joint Congress in Liverpool, October 2014.

EFLM is determined to further strengthen its collaboration with commercial companies and has therefore recently released its Policy for commercial partners.

EFLM Publication policy document has been produced to ensure standardized classification and management of EFLM publications as well as uniform way of acknowledging EFLM contribution. The list of EFLM publications is available on the EFLM website at the following link: <http://www.efcclm.eu/index.php/eflm-publications.html>

EFLM has held its 1st Strategic Conference in November 2014. EFLM EB has decided to create a Task Force on Performance Goals in Laboratory Medicine (TF-PG) to coordinate the activities of the groups established as the 1st Strategic Conference outcome. EFLM is willing to take the lead in this topic as the main driver focusing its activities in the next two years on the a) Performance criteria models for specific laboratory tests, b) Harmonization of allowable limits in EQAS, c) Total error, d) Performance criteria for pre- and post-analytical (extra-analytical) phases and e) Biological variation database.

Since July 2014, EFLM has 1 full-time employee (Silvia Cattaneo) engaged to exclusively handle EFLM matters in the IFCC/EFLM Office in Milan.

Committee Reports

Committee – Communications (C-C)

C-C activity has undergone reorganization with a new Chair appointed in July 2014. The C-C activities are focused to increase the EFLM visibility and to improve the efficiency of the communication channels (both for internal and external communications). Among these activities, a major effort was dedicated to the renovation and continuous update of the EFLM Publication list, and to the creation of a Twitter account through which important news and information can be easily distributed. To improve the communication towards its Member Societies, regular notes were sent to the Presidents and National Representatives to involve them actively in the EFLM projects. To establish contacts with the single members of the National Societies, a mass mailing list was created as a tool to disseminate information of interest in a rapid mode.

Particular attention was dedicated to the liaison with IFCC, contributing regularly to the IFCC e-Newsletter with reports about the main EFLM activities.

The Task&Finish Group on History is active and currently collecting information with the aim to create communication tools such as books and web section on the history of EFLM.

Committee – Education and Training (C-ET)

C-ET has produced Guidelines for EFLM-UEMS joint congress, including the bid evaluation form, EFLM Meeting guidelines, and a standardized procedure for evaluation of the EFLM bursaries. C-ET has prepared the EFLM Speakers Bureau.

C-ET is promoting active participation of young scientists in EFLM events through a number of EFLM bursaries (10 for EuroMedLab Congress, 5 for EFLM-UEMS Congress, 8 for EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course, 3 for EFLM-BD Preanalytical Conference).

WG-Distance education (WG-DE) has been re-established and has produced two e-seminars in 2014: “How can biological variation data for high sensitive troponins be related to current recommendations for diagnosing acute myocardial infarction” (KM Aakre) and “Bias in clinical chemistry” (E Theodorsson).

C-ET has been involved in the organization of several meetings (14th EFLM Course in Dubrovnik; 10th Symposium for Balkan region; 3rd EFLM-UEMS joint congress; 1st EFLM Strategic Conference). Educational materials (PPT presentations, abstracts, e-seminars) arising from these EFLM events have been made available on the EFLM website.

Committee – Profession (C-P)

Working Group on Common Training Frameworks and Syllabus (WG-CTF) has progressed well with compiling version 5 of the EC4 syllabus for education/training in laboratory medicine, further drawing of parallels with UEMS’ Blue Book will be welcomed in 2015. Working Group on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (WG-RPQ) continues to liaise via CEPLIS with the EU Commission in seeking guidance on the content and presentation of a Common Training Framework (CTF) for science and pharmacy trained specialists in laboratory medicine. A document proposing the establishment of a CTF including its drivers, an audit of laboratory medicine practice in the EU Community, the definition of equivalence of standards, the context of specialists’ contributions has been prepared with view to refinement during 2015 before submission to the EU Commission with support of 10 EU member states

Committee – Quality and Regulations (C-QR)

Two working groups within this Committee interrelate in many aspects. The WG Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards (WG-A/ISO) focuses on influencing activities in ISO TC212 and CEN TC140. This relates to standards on quality management, risk management, POCT, measurement uncertainty, pre-examination aspects and others. Furthermore, it works on composing European Guidelines relating to these fields. Instances are: use of flexible scope by accreditation bodies, retention time, and implementation of reference values. It participates in the Health Care Committee of EA (European cooperation on Accreditation). The WG IVD tries to influence the new draft Regulation on IVD. It focuses on in house testing, information supplied to users, and traceability aspects. EDMA has representatives in this WG.

Committee – Science (C-S)

The eight working groups (biological variation, cardiac markers, guidelines, harmonization of the total testing process, patient focused laboratory medicine, personalized laboratory medicine, postanalytical phase, test evaluation) and two task and finish groups (laboratory testing for

dyslipidemia and critical results) constitute the backbone and substance of the Science Committee. All groups have been active in pursuing their terms of reference: performing studies, publishing original research reports, reviews and position papers. Members of the groups have also lectured at several international conferences. Co-operative projects have been established, which also include industry partners. Projects are ongoing with the intention of applying for research grants in international competition

EC4 Foundation

Together with the EFLM Profession Committee the Board met in Istanbul (June 2014, IFCC WorldLab) and Liverpool (October 2014, EuroLabFocus2014). Progress towards attracting 10 EU member states as signatories to a CTF under EU Directive 2013/55/EU has been slow. To date Slovenia has obtained national society and government confirmation that EC4's Equivalence of Standards (an integral part of a CTF) is met. Whilst Croatia, Slovakia, France and UK's national societies are optimistic that government support can be elicited, more intense initiatives at government liaison with the support of the EC4 Foundation Board and EFLM EB are required if the end 2015 deadline is to be met.

At its Liverpool meeting the Board approved the transfer of 15% of EC4 registration fees to EFLM to acknowledge the secretarial and administrative support of the EFLM office. The process of enhancing the functionality and ease-of-use of the registrants database, which began late in 2013, is scheduled for completion late in 2014. The number of registrants rose from 3104 to 3112. Two bursaries of € 1200 each were awarded for participation in EuroLabFocus 2014.

Meetings

EFLM has organized 4 meetings during 2014:

1. 10th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, Belgrade, Serbia, September 11–12, 2014.
2. 3rd EFLM-UEMS (EuroLabFocus) Joint Congress in Liverpool, October 7-10, 2014.
3. 14th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Dubrovnik, October 25-26, 2014,
4. 1st EFLM Strategic Conference, November 24-25, 2014, Milan, Italy

Mauro Panteghini
EFLM President