

From: Graham BEASTALL – President
Date: 2011 – 12 – 12
Ref: Task Force on Point of Care Testing

President
Doctor Graham H BEASTALL

'Laboratory Medicine Consulting'
Mayfield, Birdston,
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow G66 1RW
UK
Tel/Fax: +44 141 776 1565
Mobile: +44 759 004 1717
Email: gbeastall@googlemail.com

Vice-President
Professor Christopher W K LAM

Department of Chemical Pathology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Prince of Wales Hospital
Shatin, N.T.
HONG KONG
Tel: +852 26322332
Fax: +852 26365090
e-mail: waikellam@cuhk.edu.hk

Past President
Professor Jocelyn M B HICKS

4329 Van Ness Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5625
USA
Tel: +1 202 3630373
Fax: +1 202 3635322
Mobile: +1 202 2501057
e-mail: hicksjmb@gmail.com

Secretary
Doctor Päivi LAITINEN

Head Chemist, docent
HUSLAB Clinical chemistry and haematology
P.O. Box 340
Haartmaninkatu 4
00290 Helsinki
FINLAND
Tel: +358 50 427 9208
e-mail: paivi.h.laitinen@hus.fi

Treasurer
Doctor Ghassan SHANNAN

PO Box 31147
26 Ghazawy Street, Western Villas
Mazzeah, Damascus
SYRIA
Tel: +963 11 6120309
Fax: +963 11 5128453
e-mail: ghassanshannan@gmail.com

Corporate Representative
Priv.-Doz. Doctor Thomas BRINKMANN

Group Chief Medical Officer
Unilabs
Place Cornavin 12
1201 Geneva
SWITZERLAND
Tel: +41 22 909 7777
Fax: +41 22 909 7707
e-mail: ifcc@unilabs.com

Members
Doctor Bernard GOUGET

Conseiller Santé Publique
Fédération Hospitalière de France
1 bis rue Cabanis CS41402
75993 Paris Cedex 14
FRANCE
Tel: +33 1 44068444
Fax: +33 1 44068445
Mobile: +336 0883 4604
e-mail: b.gouget@fhf.fr

Mr. Joseph Bercmans LOPEZ

Head, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
MAHSA University College
50490 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA
Tel/Fax: +60 3 77272344
Mobile: +60 12 2663280
e-mail: jblopez@streamyx.com

Doctor Ulisses TUMA

Rua 7 No. 380 Apto 1502
Sector Oeste Goiania - GO
74110-090
BRAZIL
Tel: +55 62 32241852
Fax: +55 62 32916579
e-mail: ultuma@terra.com.br

IFCC OFFICE

Via Carlo Farini 81
20159 Milano
ITALY
Tel: +39 02 66809912
Fax: +39 02 60781846
e-mail: ifcc@ifcc.org
http://www.ifcc.org

Distribution: IFCC Full Members – Presidents and National Representatives
IFCC Affiliate Members
IFCC Corporate Members

Dear IFCC Member Representative,

At its November 2011 meeting the IFCC Executive Board responded to the many suggestions that it has received to boost its activity in point of care testing (POCT). IFCC recognised that activity in POCT may be scientific, clinical, or educational in nature and that there is a need for communication of good practice. Therefore, IFCC has decided to create a Task Force for POCT (TF-POCT) that will coordinate and oversee a number of defined POCT projects, each of which will be conducted through a Working Group.

The Executive Board acknowledges that there is already national and international activity dedicated to POCT. Therefore, IFCC sees a key role for TF-POCT in ensuring that IFCC projects complement and do not duplicate existing activity.

The Terms of Reference for the IFCC TF-POCT are attached to this letter.

As IFCC Members you are invited to contribute to and support TF-POCT in any of three ways:

1. You may submit a nomination for the Chair of IFCC TF-POCT. Nominees should have a strong track record of achievement in the area of POCT, preferably with an international dimension. Nominations should comprise a CV for the nominee and a letter of support from the IFCC Member and should reach the IFCC Office (ifcc@ifcc.org) no later than 17 February 2012.
2. You may submit a nomination for a Member of TF-POCT. The person specification and nomination process is the same as for the Chair, and the deadline is also 17 February 2012. It will be possible to submit a single nomination for Chair or Member of TF-POCT.
3. You may make a proposal for a specific POCT project to be conducted by a new Working Group in collaboration with TF-POCT. The project proposal form is available from the 'Executive Board and Council' tab of the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org). This form should be completed and submitted no later than 31 March 2012. In line with IFCC practice approved projects will attract modest funding for the Chair of the Working Group. Other members of a Working Group will be invited to participate on the basis that they are self-financing.

I look forward to your engagement with this important IFCC development.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Graham Beastall

Copies:
IFCC Regional Federations – Presidents
IFCC Executive Board and Chairs of IFCC Divisions

IFCC Task Force on Point of Care Testing (TF-POCT)

Terms of Reference

Membership:

- Independent Chair – to be appointed by the Executive Board
- Division representatives – one each nominated from the IFCC Scientific Division; Education and Management Division; and Communications and Publications Division
- Members – two to be selected from nominations by IFCC Full or Affiliate Members
- Members – two to be selected from nominations by IFCC Corporate Members
- Chairs of individual POCT Working Groups (as established)

Accountability:

TF-POCT will report directly to the Executive Board. An annual report will be expected for discussion at the final Executive Board meeting each year. The TF-POCT may consult with or report to the Executive Board at any of its meetings. The TF-POCT will also report to the three IFCC Divisions through the nominated Division representatives.

Definition:

For the purposes of TF-POCT the definition of a POCT system will be wide. It will include POCT performed by healthcare professionals in hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, the workplace and the community. It will also include POCT that is available for direct to consumer or self testing.

Aims:

1. To promote quality in the use, performance, interpretation and reporting of POCT across the full spectrum of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine
2. To create a forum for high level discussion on a wide range of POCT related topics
3. To provide international leadership for developing the clinical practice of POCT in Laboratory Medicine.

Objectives:

1. Creation of a communication network for specialists who are expert in POCT. To include other POCT specialist groups; expert individuals in IFCC Full, Affiliate and Corporate Members; regulatory agencies and users of POCT
2. Definition, implementation, evaluation and reporting of a range of defined POCT projects. To include projects that address quality in POCT performance, the appropriate clinical use of POCT, connectivity and the cost effectiveness of POCT. Projects should complement rather than duplicate projects being undertaken by other POCT specialists
3. Preparation of educational support material for those using or considering the use of POCT
4. Creation of a library of publications that document the clinical effectiveness of POCT and the impact on clinical outcomes. To include clinical chemistry, haematology, microbiology and other disciplines of laboratory medicine, as appropriate

Delivery:

1. Preparation of an annual report for consideration by the Executive Board
2. Creation of a resource centre on the IFCC website for those interested in POCT
3. Publication of scientific papers and best practice documents in the use of POCT
4. Organisation of conferences, specialist meetings and discussion groups dedicated to POCT
5. Presentation at relevant national and international congresses of scientific and clinical material related to the optimal application, performance and interpretation of POCT