

APFCB Work Plan for 2016

1. EB, Committee Chairs and Committee members

- i. Promotion of the APFCB internationally, regionally and nationally, including at workshops, conferences, scientific meetings and during visiting lectureships.
- ii. Recruiting new Full members, Affiliate members and Corporate members.
- iii. Maintaining good and strong relationships with other regional clinical biochemistry organisations, AACC, IFCC and WASPaLM.
- iv. An MoU was signed on 11 December 2014 between APFCB and AACC effective for a period of two years beginning in 2015. AACC will be sponsoring a symposium at the APFCB Congress in Taipei in November 2016 and the APFCB will be sponsoring a symposium at the 2016 AACC Annual Meeting. APFCB and AACC will collaborate to provide education activities to the Asia-Pacific region in the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

2. Education and Laboratory Management Committee (C-ELM, Chair: Associate Prof Tony Badrick)

i. **IFCC Visiting Lecturer for 2015/2016: Prof Howard Morris (Australia)**

The topic of Prof Howard Morris's visiting lectureship is Vitamin D and bone.

ii. **APFCB Travelling Lecturer for 2015 and 2016: Dr Graham Jones (Australia)**

The topic of Associate Prof Graham Jones travelling lectureship is Chronic Kidney Disease.

Lectures will be delivered at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei (Plenary Lecture) and in Hong Kong in 2016.

iii. **Planning for a Chemical Pathology Course in Malaysia in 2016**

The course will run for 3 days and will involve local and some invited speakers. The content will be developed from a curriculum based on the AACB Course.

iv. Pre-Analytical Working Group to work together with EFLM Pre- Analytical Group

There will be a pre-analytical workshop for the Taipei meeting in 2016. A proposal was submitted for the 2016 AACC in 2015 and has been accepted by the AACC 2016 Organising Committee. The APFCB-sponsored symposium at the AACC 2016 Annual Meeting is as follows:

1. Driving change in the pre-analytical phase of testing
Dra. Endang Hoyaranda
2. Understanding the impact of race and ethnicity on common tests
Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara
3. Improving Clinical Commenting by a QA program
Tony Badrick

v. Development of Material for self-directed learning for QA/QC/Lab Accreditation on the webpage

The C-ELM webpage has seen some expansion with some material supplied from Randox. It is expected that another two articles will be added in 2016.

vi. Awareness of Environmental Impact of Clinical Laboratories

Mr Joseph Lopez and Dr Tony Badrick are also about to submit a second article on this topic. A Survey of suppliers will be conducted to add further information to this paper.

vii. 14th APFCB Congress, Taipei, 26-29 November 2016

The C-ELM will be coordinating a session sponsored by Roche entitled the 'Value of Pathology' event at the Taipei meeting in 2016. The format will be a 'hypothetical'.

3. Congresses and Conferences Committee (C-CC, Chair: Mr Joseph Lopez)

i. 14th APFCB Congress, Taipei, 26 – 29 November 2016

The C-CC Chair has been in close contact with the Chair of the Organising Committee of the 14th APFCB Congress on preparations for the congress.

The APFCB President and Chair C-CC visited Taipei on 24 Oct 2015 to confer with the OC on preparations for the 14th Congress. A report of this visit has been submitted to EB and the Congress OC. One of the important points noted was that sponsorship from the major vendors of diagnostic products was still not yet forthcoming.

The C-CC will continue to liaise with the OC and monitor preparations for the congress.

A report has been prepared by Mr Joseph Lopez together with Prof Woei-Horng Fang, Chair of the 14th APFCB Congress OC (please refer to Appendix 1).

ii. APFCB auspices

APFCB auspices will continue to be provided upon application after review by the C-CC.

iii. 16th APFCB Congress.

The C-CC will issue an invitation to members in early 2016 to bid to host the 16th APFCB Congress at the APFCB Council meeting in Taipei.

iv. Revision of the APFCB Congress Guidelines

The Chair of C-CC will draft a revised set of Guidelines for the APFCB Congress for presentation to Council before its meetings in November.

4. Communications Committee (C-Comm, Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma)

- i. To publish the APFCB e-News 6 monthly from 2016
- ii. To maintain and further enhance the quality of the APFCB website.
- iii. To ensure that the information on the APFCB website is relevant and up to date.
- iv. Uploading learning materials developed by APFCB members and APFCB Committees on the APFCB website.
- v. To provide more active support for the web-based distance-learning activities like webinars planned by C-ELM.
- vi. Multidisciplinary approach to patient care by obtaining educational material, making it available on the web site and by providing links to other relevant resources.
- vii. Develop a new PR brochure targeted to the general public, governments, industry, etc.

- viii. Publicise and promote APFCB through participation at various National and International congresses and exhibit and promote 'Clinical Biochemist Reviews'.
- ix. To communicate with member societies requesting them to provide their member societies journals weblink on the APFCB website.
- x. Establish a communication process among the committee members and member society representatives to update and work on agreed upon activities and initiatives.

5. Scientific Committee (C-Sci, Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara)

i. The regional multicentre study on reference values (RVs)

a) Expansion of the study

As of now, 5 countries in the APFCB region, Japan, China, India, the Philippines, and Pakistan, have completed their studies for derivation of country specific reference intervals (RIs) and sources of variation analyses of RVs, which were conducted as a part of the global multicentre project on RVs led by IFCC Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits.

This year, additional results are expected from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Malaysia in the APFCB region. In the meantime, interest in joining in the project from other countries in this region is expected.

b) More analysis on sources of variation of RVs

Between-country comparison of RVs will be performed to elucidate geographical region and ethnicity-related differences in RVs. The most impressive findings obtained so far are differential effects of BMI on test results depending on ethnicity: i.e., higher sensitivity of HDL-C and ALT to BMI change in Japanese and Chinese, compared with that in Indian, Pakistani, or Caucasian. The findings will be confirmed by the additional results of RVs to be obtained from the three countries.

c) Publication of analytical results for the Asian and global RI studies with international perspective

More papers will be published on analytical results of RVs obtained in the 2008–9 Asian study. The themes of the papers are (1) systematic analyses of sources of variation of RVs for 72 analytes measured, including sex- and age-related changes profiles of major analytes, (2) detailed analysis of sources of variation of thyroid function related tests, and (3) analyses of relationships among test results of iron-related parameters,

New papers on country specific reference intervals (RI) will be published by the team scientists in China, India, and Pakistan. The C-Sci will fully support their efforts.

ii. Distribution of computer software for derivation of reference interval (RI-Master)

A beta version of the software was distributed at the pre-congress workshop during 2013 APFCB congress. An updated version with improved user-interface for intuitive use of the software is now available. The new version is not only for deriving the RI more flexibly by coping with various need for secondary exclusion and partition based on sources of variation of RVs. It is also capable of graphical outputs of analytical results including depiction of histogram and probability paper plot of the RV distribution. The new version is to be distributed not only to the members of the C-Sci but also to participants of the Taipei APFCB 2016 during the hands-on statistical educational course.

iii. Development of a clinical case bank and a web-system for the practice of EBLM

Accumulation of a clinical laboratory database, or a clinical case bank, targeting major diagnostic categories, such as common haematological malignancy, autoimmune diseases etc., are being planned in Japan by collaboration of four national universities. The keen interest in joining the project was already expressed by C-Sci members of Bangladesh and Pakistan as well as IFCC C-RIDL members of UK, Turkey and USA. The database is to be used as a source reference data for the practice of evidence-based-laboratory medicine (EBLM). The laboratory test results across the collaborating institutions are to be harmonised by use of serum panel produced for the global multicenter study on RVs.

iv. Hands-on course on statistics for laboratory medicine

As was done at the APFCB Congress 2013 in Bali, an intensive hands-on course on statistics specifically required for conducting scientific research in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine will be provided as a pre-congress workshop at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei. Its objective is to enhance the scientific level of researchers in the APFCB region. The same course is also being planned for the Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS) for promotion of the scientific research in the country.

v. Regional project for harmonisation of mass spectrometry-based assays (chaired by Dr Ronda Greaves and deputy chaired by Dr CS Ho).

This regional activity originally focused on serum testosterone analysis by LC-MS/MS. With the knowledge built from this activity, work has now expanded to include other steroids. In September 2015 we met face-to-face and via teleconference at the AACB meeting held in Sydney to summarise our current activities and plan for 2016. The resulting work plan for 2016 incorporates:

- a) Ongoing review of EQA performance for steroids analysed by MS and support establishment of MS based targets.
- b) Expansion of the current initiative to focus on serum 17OHP analysis.
- c) Investigate establishment of a pilot EQA program for serum DHEA.
- d) Investigate commutability of the RCPAQAP Endocrine material in conjunction with the AACB Commutability Working Party.
- e) Complete systematic literature review and disseminate information for “*serum steroid hormone reference intervals for mass spectrometry methods*”; PROSPERO registration CRD42015029637.
- f) Comparison of the common calibrator based MS testosterone method with patient results obtained from immunoassay platforms.
- g) Complete statistical analysis of longitudinal data for preterm infant steroids using traceable common calibrator. (Note: reference intervals already established and published for this group).
- h) Continue investigation of third party sources of quality control material and support establishment of MS appropriate ranges for package inserts.

vi. Development of regional appropriate methods and reference intervals for complex biochemical tests for children. (coordinated by Dr Ronda Greaves and Dr Tran Mai with supported by a qualified statistician Dr James Baglin)

Disorders of sex development – urine steroids metabolomics project. This project aims to develop a regional method for urine steroid profiles measured in fresh and blotter urine samples. The project is conducted at the National Hospital of Paediatrics (NHP) in Hanoi Viet Nam. From July 2015 NHP has been enrolled in the SKML programme for urine steroids and the 2015 material supplied has been used for initial evaluation of the method. The 2016 SKML enrolment will be used as a formal EQA to confirm on-going method performance. Once this has been established the reference interval and ratio studies will be performed. All samples for these studies have been collected and are stored at -20°C awaiting analysis.

vii. Training (co-ordinated by Dr Ronda Greaves in conjunction with Roche Diagnostics).

Training activities proposed for 2016 to underpin quality scientific research and establish further collaborations for APFCB are:

- a) 2016 Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course conducted in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Hanoi
- b) Workshop/s to be conducted in Vietnam including the 4th POCT workshop.
- c) 1st Myanmar Chemical Pathology Course.

viii. Paediatric / Endocrine Symposium at the EFLM-UEMS Conference Warsaw 2016.

This proposed APFCB Symposium will incorporate the following presentations:

- a) Dr Tze Ping Loh - National Hospital Singapore – “*Clinical Utility of Steroid Analysis*”
- b) Dr CS Ho - Prince of Wales Hospital Hong Kong – “*Mass Spectrometry Analysis of Serum Steroids*”
- c) Prof Stefan Wudy – Giessen University Germany – “*Interpreting Mass Spectrometry data for the Diagnosis of Disorders of Sex Development*”
- d) Dr Ronda Greaves - RMIT / Murdoch Children's Research Institute Australia; “*Mass Spectrometry Reference Intervals for Serum Steroids*”.

ix. Addressing chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the Asia-Pacific Region (Chair of CKD working group: Associate Prof Graham Jones)

The overall goal is to support member societies (Ordinary and Affiliate members) in developing policies for laboratory testing in CKD to match the clinical need in their countries. The model is based on the IFCC-WASPALM Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease. It is expected that participants in this project will also be corresponding members of the TF-CKD and will in turn receive support from other members of the TF-CKD.

Proposed actions for the project:

- a) A call for nominations from member societies to submit individuals to be members of this working group. This proposal of an individual should indicate an interest in the area of a national policy on CKD testing. The individual should have an interest in CKD.
- b) Circulation of current recommendations from the TF-CKD for discussion and possible adoption. In general, these are support for the KDIGO 2012 Guidelines for CKD diagnosis and monitoring, a recognition that collaboration with the relevant national nephrology and other clinical organisations is vital and that where possible a national approach is preferred.

- c) A meeting will be planned of nominees and other interested parties to be held at the 14th APFCB congress in Taipei in November 2016.
- d) Nominees and national organisations will identify opportunities for improvements in CKD-related testing and, if possible, the CKD Working Group will provide such advice and assistance as is possible.

6. Corporate Representative Report

- i. A new APFCB Promotional Presentation Deck has been developed for the EB's use in raising awareness of the APFCB and its committee activities. The presentation deck will be continuously updated, taking into account new members as well as initiatives.
- ii. Formation of cross-committee Working Groups across the region on select topics for greater integration and impact across meetings, education, speakers, and scientific publications, with Corporate member participation. Key topics include laboratory quality and disease states of interest to the Asia- Pacific region.
- iii. Working with C-CC to understand the various mechanisms for Corporate member participation and development of key metrics to track promotional and branding activities, e.g., number of unique visitors per month, and outreach to member associations. These numbers are useful indicators to justify marketing spending by Corporate Members.
- iv. Convene a Corporate Members' meeting at the 14th APFCB Congress, Taipei, 26 – 29 November 2016, to foster deeper ties between EB and Corporate Members.

Prepared by Leslie Lai, with contributions from Tony Badrick, Ronda Greaves, Kiyoshi Ichihara, Graham Jones, Joseph Lopez, Praveen Sharma and Alexander Wong.

17 January 2016

Appendix 1

Progress report of APFCB Congress 2016

APFCB President Leslie Lai and Dr. Joseph Lopez, Chair, APFCB C-CC met the Organising Committee on Saturday 24th October 2015 to discuss the progress of preparations for the 14th APFCB Congress to be held from 26th-29th November 2016, in Taipei. A power point presentation was made by Prof. Woei-horng Fang, Chair of the Congress Organising Committee (COC), Prof. Shu-Chu Shiesh, Chair, Scientific Committee (SC) and other colleagues from the COC. Also present were representatives from the professional conference organiser (PCO). The EB representatives considered that overall preparations appeared to be on course.

The following are some key points of the progress:

1. Scientific Programme:
 - a. There are 4 plenary lectures and 24 symposia and the speakers and titles are in place.
 - b. Dr. Kuo, Director-General of Centres for Disease Control Taiwan, has been invited to be the Keynote speaker with the title of his talk being “Laboratory Medicine in Cloud.”
 - c. The abstracts submission system was opened in December 2015 and the closing date is 31 May 2016.
 - d. APFCB Travelling Lecturer, Dr. Graham Jones is one of the plenary speakers.
 - e. Some APFCB national societies have not yet confirmed the themes of their talks and speakers and we are actively tracking them and will reserve some rooms for late additions of symposia.
2. Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM) accepted our invitation to include their annual conference as a satellite meeting of the APFCB Congress. The time frame of this satellite meeting will be on 26th - 27th November with the title “Asia-Pacific Chinese Conference of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine” and Mandarin will be used in this conference. This satellite meeting is expected to attract more participants from China, Hong Kong, Macao, as well as the bulk of local medical technologists. An effort is being made to attract the local clinical pathologists to participate in the congress.
3. Registration: USD 550 (same as Bali) for foreign participants; free registration for scholarship holders. Daily registration will be USD 100 and an extra payment is required for the banquet. The registration system will be open in early 2016.
4. Corporate Sponsorship:
 - a. There are 2 diamond sponsors – Roche and Siemens.
 - b. However, some of the well-known vendors who are APFCB Corporate Members have yet to register their interest in the congress. APFCB will assist the COC in contacting these prospective sponsors.

- c. Local sponsors will be actively contacted in the coming months. Good local vendor support is expected because of the participation of the TSLM.
 - d. There are still slots available for industrial workshops and it is expected that these will be taken up in the coming months by the major vendors.
- 5. Venue: the venue of the congress will be the Taiwan International Convention Centre (TICC). The entire building of the TICC is available for the period of the APFCB Congress. The trade exhibition will be held at the Taiwan World Trade Centre which is just across the road from the TICC. TICC, TWTC and the Grand Hyatt are all within the vicinity of the iconic 101 Building and within walking distance of each other and metro stations.
- 6. Professional Conference Organiser (PCO):
 - a. The local Enjoy-PCO will act as the congress's contact point. It will manage everything, including registration, communication with speakers and participants, accommodation arrangements, etc.
- 7. Social:
 - a. The reception for the opening will be held at the TICC.
 - b. Packed lunch will be provided to all registered participants on each day of the congress
 - c. The congress banquet will be held at the Grand Hyatt hotel and will be open to all registered participants for a fee. This venue can hold 800 guests.
- 8. Promotions:
 - a. The official web-site <http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/> will be progressively updated.
 - b. It will be used for registrations and submission of abstracts.
 - c. A major promotional effort will be made at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid.
- 9. We are ready to provide venues for meetings of the APFCB EB and committees, and the IFCC and its Divisions, Committees, if requested, and other joint meetings (e.g. APFCB-IFCC; APFCB-WASPaLM) that are held in conjunction with the APFCB Congress.