



APFCB Activities, 2007-2010 in Education, Science and Laboratory Management,

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President, APFCB (2004-2010)

Once every 3 years, the APFCB President reports to the Council Meeting on the activities of the preceding 3 years of the federation. This meeting is traditionally held on the opening day of the Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (APCCB).

There are 16 ordinary and 15 corporate members and 1 affiliate. The new ordinary members admitted during the period of reporting were the Philippines (PAMET) and Nepal (NAMLS), both admitted in 2008. The new Corporate Members admitted were all companies from our region; they were PM Separations (Australia, Nov. 2007), Beijing Wantai (China, 2008) and Agappe (India, 2010).

The following is the summary of the activities in education, science and laboratory management from Oct. 2007 to Oct. 2010.

Educational Activities

Travelling lectureships: The main educational activity of the APFCB consisted of the 3 regular travelling lectureships which are organised by the Education Committee. Dr Leslie Lai (Malaysia) concluded his stint as APFCB Travelling Lecturer with a plenary at the 11th APCCB in Beijing in October 2007. Dr Samuel Vasikaran of Australia who was the TL 2009 and 2010 concluded his series of lectures on interpretative commentary of laboratory results with a plenary at the 12th APCCB in Seoul.

The IFCC Visiting Lectureships to the APFCB region are a collaborative effort among the IFCC, the APFCB (C-Edu) and the national societies which are IFCC and APFCB members. The IFCC provides the speaker and covers travel costs, the APFCB arranges the itinerary of the speaker and national society play host and provides local arrangements. Professor Mauro Panteghini (Italy) visited the region twice in 2008 and 2009 as the Visiting Lecturer to speak on cardiac biomarkers.

We also organise travelling lectureships in conjunction with our corporate members. Speakers for the APFCB-Beckman Coulter Symposium lectures were Dr Sunil Sethi (Singapore) in 2007 and 2008, and, Professor Gunther Weiss (Austria) in 2009. The APFCB-Sekisui Lectureship of 2008 was undertaken by A/Prof Shinji Kihara (Japan) who spoke on adiponectins and undertook a one-off lecture tour of 3 countries.

Webinars: The APFCB-Siemens webinars are a new activity that was organised by the APFCB Education Committee. The first session which was conducted by Dr Ken Sikaris of Australia on 23rd July, was on Uncertainty Measurement.

Scientific and Laboratory Management Activities

The APFCB Scientific and Laboratory Management committees (C-Sci and C-LM) undertook a number of projects during the period of reporting.

HbA_{1c} (C-LM): The project to assess the proficiency of HbA_{1c} testing in the Asia-Pacific region which was concluded in 2007. The project, organised by Professor Shu-Chu Shieh (CACB, Taiwan), used samples sent out from Taiwan. The results of the 3 annual surveys held since 2005 were published in Clinical Chemistry. Sponsorship for this activity was received from Bio-Rad and Dade Behring.

Asian Study on Reference Intervals (C-Sci): The 3rd Asian Study on Reference Intervals was completed. Papers on the study are under preparation for publication. Preliminary results were presented at meetings held in Osaka in September 2009 and at the 12th APCCB in Seoul in October 2010. The IFCC collaborated in this study. The 4th study which will cover a larger area of the Asia-Pacific region is at planning stage. IFCC has expressed its support for this study which has attracted interest outside our region.

Interpretative Comments Education Programme (C-LM): This project was undertaken in 2008, 2009. It examined the proficiency of participants to provide interpretive comments on laboratory results. About 50 participants in all from within and outside APFCB region registered for the project. Expert comments were provided by 3 chemical pathologists and the comments of the participants were compared with these and scored. The results of 2008 have been published.

QA Workshop (IFCC, C-LM and ACBSL): As part of the IFCC's efforts in assisting developing countries and the APFCB's educational activities in laboratory management, a workshop on quality assurance was held in Colombo,

Sri Lanka on 4-5 April 2009. It was organised jointly was IFCC(EMD), APFCB's C-LM and the Association of Clinical Biochemists of Sri Lanka.

WG on Mass Spectrometry: Following the conference on mass spectrometry held in Hong Kong in January 2010, a Working Group on Harmonisation of Mass Spectrometry (testosterone) was formed under the C-Sci by scientists from Hong Kong and Australia. The WG held its first meeting in Seoul during the 12th APCCB. It has formulated its terms of reference and action plans which are expected to be implemented in the near future.

APFCB Scientific Publications, Presentations

It is the practice of the APFCB to share our findings when a scientific project has been successfully completed. In keeping with this premise the following scientific publications emerged during the period of reporting from the APFCB's scientific activities:

1. Ichihara K, Itoh Y, Lam CWK, et al. Poon PMK, Kim J-H, Kyono H, Chandrawening N, Muliaty D and the Science Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Sources of variation of commonly measured serum analytes in 6 Asian cities and consideration of common reference intervals. Clin Chem 2008; 54: 356-65.
2. Shiesh S-C, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Kao Jau-Tsuen, Vasikaran SD, Lopez JB and the Laboratory Management Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Proficiency Testing of HbA1c: A 4-year experience in Asian and Pacific Region. Clin Chem 2009; 55: 1876-80.
3. Vasikaran SD, Lai LC, Sethi S, Lopez JB, Sikaris KA. Quality of interpretative commenting on common clinical chemistry results in the Asia-Pacific region. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009; 47: 963-70.

The results of the 3rd Asian Study were presented at a symposium at the 12th APCCB in Seoul in October.

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