



## ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

### ANNUAL REPORT 2022

After the pandemic showed a significant decline since the beginning of 2022, activities around the world started to roll slowly but surely. Meetings during 2022 were held with utmost caution while not everyone were feeling safe to travel at the beginning, but life became quite normal later in the year, although hybrid meetings became a convenient way of organising conferences. Which also happened to APFCB. APFCB had its congress in June 2022, which was a joint hybrid congress between the IFCC, APFCB and KSCC. This was a change of plan from the previous schedule of the APFCB congresses as 2022 was planned for the APFCB congress in Sydney, Australia. The change of schedules and places were unavoidable due the circumstances, and the joint congress in Seoul, Korea, was a good compromise to start in-person meetings. Apart from the congress in Seoul, Korea, APFCB activities continued as shown below.

Ordinary members and Affiliate members showed no difference in numbers, but activity of members did decrease during the past years. Some Corporate members were delisted as result of non-responsiveness, but we are glad to see some new ones.

#### 1. **ORDINARY MEMBERS (in alphabetical order)**

The ordinary membership had not seen any change during 2022, although the pandemic may have affected some members causing inactivity and unresponsiveness during the year.

1. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
2. Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)
3. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Srilanka (ACBSL)
4. Chinese Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taiwan (CACB)
5. Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM)
6. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)
7. Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry (IACC)
8. Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Dctors (IACLD)
9. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
10. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
11. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB)
12. Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL)
13. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Science (NAMLS)
14. Pakistan Society of Clinical Pathologists (PSCP)
15. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)

16. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemistry (SACB)
17. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemistry (TACB)
18. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

## **2. AFFILIATE MEMBERS (in alphabetical order)**

There was no change either on the list of affiliate membership during 2022; although there were some non-responders.

1. Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
2. Chinese Association of Clinical Laboratory Management (CACLM)
3. College of Chemical Pathologists of Srilanka (CCPSL)
4. Macao Laboratory Medicine Association (MLMA)
5. Nepalese Association of Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
6. Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)

## **3. CORPORATE MEMBERS (in alphabetical order)**

1. Abbott Laboratories (Singapore ) Pte Ltd
2. Beckman Coulter Hong Kong Ltd
3. Becton Dickinson Holdings Pte Ltd (BD Diagnostics – Preanalytical Systems)
4. Bio-Rad Laboratories (Singapore) Pte Ltd
5. DiaSys Diagnostic Systems GmbH
6. Quidel Ortho \*
7. Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
8. Sekisui Medical Co Ltd
9. Siemens Healthcare Pte Ltd
10. Shenzhen New Industries Biomedical Engineering Co Ltd (Snibe Diagnostic)
11. Sukraa Software Solution Pvt Ltd
12. Sysmex Corporation
13. The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP)
14. Thermo Fisher Scientific
15. Waters Pacific Pte Ltd

We are welcoming one new corporate member beginning 2023: Greiner Bio-one. (\*) delisted before 2022 and reinstated in 2022.

## **4. EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Due to health reasons, Dr Sunil Sethi, who was supposed to chair as APFCB President until the end of 2022, resigned in September 2022, and the Vice President, Endang Hoyaranda, took over the Presidentship.

**Executive Board:**

- President: Dra Endang Hoyaranda (IACC)
- Immediate Past-President : Dr Leslie Lai (MACB)
- Vice President : became vacant as the Vice President became President
- Secretary : Dr Helen Martin (AACB)
- Treasurer : Dr Leila L Florento (PAMET)
- Corporate Representative (co-opt): Dr Douglas Chung (Abbott)

**Committee Chairs:**

- Scientific Committee Chair: Dr Samuel Vasikaran (AACB)
- Education and Laboratory Management Chair: Dr Tony Badrick (AACB)
- Communication Committee Chair: Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin (MACB)
- Congresses and Conferences Chair: Dr Praveen Sharma (ACBI)

***The following are activities conducted by the committees:***

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Committee Chair: Dr Samuel Vasikaran

Members:

1. Tze Ping Loh, Chair of Harmonization of Reference Intervals WG
2. Ronda Greaves, Chair of Mass Spectrometry Harmonisation WG
3. Mohamed Saleem, Chair of Laboratory Data for Improving Diagnostics WG
4. Mithu Banerjee, Chair of Diabetes Testing Harmonisation WG
5. Pavai Sthaneswar, Chair of APFCB / WASPaLM Task Force on CKD

**1. Reference Intervals WG**

The Harmonization of Reference Intervals WG has examined and compared indirect methods for the derivation of reference intervals using data from laboratories within the Asia-Pacific region. The results of these studies have resulted in three publications.

Publications:

- a. Comparison of two (data mining) indirect approaches for between-subject biological variation determination. Tan RZ, et al; APFCB Harmonization of Reference Intervals Working Group. *Clin Biochem* 2022 Apr 27:S0009-9120(22)00118-7. doi: 10.1016/j.clinbiochem.2022.04.015. Online ahead of print.
- b. Comparison of 8 methods for univariate statistical exclusion of pathological subpopulations for indirect reference intervals and biological variation studies. Tan RZ, et al; APFCB Harmonization of Reference Intervals Working Group. *Clin Biochem* 2022;103:16-24.

- c. Comparison of four indirect (data mining) approaches to derive within-subject biological variation. Tan RZ, et al; APFCB Harmonization of Reference Intervals Working Group. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2022;60(4):636-44.

## 2. Mass Spectrometry Harmonisation WG

A multicentre study of the influence of internal standard on the analysis of 17-hydroxyprogesterone by LCMSMS was completed in association with RCPAQAP – AACB and IFCC ETD Pediatric Hormonics Working Group.

A study of patients presenting to the National Children's Hospital in Vietnam with 5 $\alpha$ -reductase type 2 deficiency detected by GC-MS analysis of the urinary steroid metabolome was conducted. The additional aim of this study was to determine the sensitivity and specificity of urinary steroid metabolite ratios in the diagnosis of 5 $\alpha$ -reductase type 2 deficiency

Publications:

- a. Validation of steroid ratios for random urine by mass spectrometry to detect 5 $\alpha$ -reductase deficiency in Vietnamese children. Tran TCM, et al. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2022 May 24. doi: 10.1515/cclm-2022-0272. Online ahead of print.
- b. Influence of isotopically labeled internal standards on quantification of serum/plasma 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxyprogesterone (17OHP) by liquid chromatography mass spectrometry. Loh TP, et al. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2020 Sep 25;58(10):1731-1739.

## 3. Laboratory data for improving Diagnostics WG

The WG has Analysed Laboratory Data for Improving Diagnostics and produced data on the reporting of critical results in Asian laboratories and Quality indicators in Chinese Laboratories. These survey reports will be used to support healthcare goals for improved disease management in the region. The support of Roche Diagnostics for this activity is acknowledged.

Publications:

- a. A current analysis of quality indicators in Chinese clinical Laboratories. Saleem M, et al. *J Lab Precis Med* 2021;6:16
- b. Turnaround times and modes of reporting critical results in Asian laboratories. Badrick T, et al. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry* 2021;58(3):247-50

## 4. Diabetes Testing Harmonisation WG

The WG conducting surveys of diabetes testing and reporting practices in the region. Results of surveys conducted in the Philippines, India and Sri Lanka have been presented at the PAMET conference in 2018, the APFCB Congress in 2019 and the CCPSL Congress in 2020 respectively. Survey has also been concluded in Singapore and the results are being analysed for publication. It is clear that whilst

most laboratories follow recommended practices, there is some lag in laboratory practices in some areas which could benefit from activities to harmonize and update practice. Ideally, this would be locally driven, led by each national professional body, but APFCB would support these activities going forward.

Publication:

- a. Trends in laboratory testing practice for diabetes mellitus. Banerjee M, Vasikaran S. eJIFCC 2020;31:(3):231-41.

## **5. APFCB-WASPaLM TF-CKD**

The WG has undertaken a survey of testing and reporting practices for CKD related laboratory indices in India in order to ascertain concordance of reporting practices with current guidelines and industry standards. The results are being analysed and it is hoped that the data would help harmonize practice according to current recommendations throughout the region.

## **6. Masterclass webinars: Interpretative commenting on clinical chemistry reports.**

Webinars to discuss and analyse interpretative comments and to educate laboratory professionals on the addition of interpretative commenting commenced in August 2020. Numerous webinars on various Clinical Biochemistry topics have been concluded with wide participation from the region. The resource material and the recordings of these webinars are available on the APFCB Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoicTsnVX-COjklgZHQ54Q/videos>

Future webinars are planned on a monthly basis. The support and the excellent organisation of the webinars by Dr Pearline Teo, Siemens Healthcare Pte Ltd is acknowledged.

## **EDUCATION AND LABORATORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Committee Chair: Dr Tony Badrick

Members: Dr Lia Gardenia Partakusuma (Indonesia)

Dr Tze Ping Loh (Singapore)

Dr Ronda Greaves (Australia)

Dr Raja Elina (Malaysia)

Dr July Kumalawati (Indonesia)

Dra Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)

Dr Jozi Habijanac (Roche Corporate)

Dr Amit Manjure (Siemens Corporate)

Dr Rojeet Shrestha (Japan)

Dr Hong-yew Lim (Roche Corporate)

The role of the C-ELM is to provide support for member organisations in education. This usually involves the organisation of visiting lecturers, seminars, and training activities. Travel restrictions were stringent as impact of the Covid pandemic. Other means for education programs were implemented to continue the C-ELM activities.

### **1. APFCB Travelling Lecturer**

The APFCB Visiting Lecturer for 2021/22 was Dr Helen Martin from Australia. Whilst there were travel restrictions on this key role, virtual lectures continued

### **2. APFCB - Roche – 12<sup>th</sup> Chemical Pathology Course – Vietnam**

This is an ongoing annual event organised by Roche in collaboration with Rhonda Greaves from Australia. In 2020, the virtual event attracted approximately 400 participants and consisted of a mixture of invited and local speakers presenting on routine chemical pathology topics.

The course is supported and endorsed by many prestigious local and international medical organisations and associations, such as International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB), Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB), Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemists (VACB), Ho Chi Minh City Association of Clinical Biochemists (HACB), Ho Chi Minh City Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (HMLT), Bach Mai Hospital, Cho Ray Hospital and other medical organizations and Associations

### **3. APFCB-AACC Workshops**

The APFCB has been collaborating with the AACC with their Global Lab Quality Initiative (GLQI) as part of the Asia-Pacific Working Group (APWG). It was not possible to run any workshop in 2020. After being delayed for three years, this workshop is planned to run in Mongolia in 2023.

### **4. Workshop on Laboratory Testing of Covid-19.**

As the information of laboratory diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19 was rapidly evolving with new information arising on a daily basis, laboratory professionals needed a constant update on the developments. Furthermore, many developing countries were

struggling to meet requirements of appropriate testing not only because of lack of resources but also due to lack of well-trained laboratory professionals on the molecular assays. To help lab professionals with appropriate guide in COVID-19 testing, the APFCB committee for Education and Laboratory Management organised a two-day virtual workshop that contained a series of lectures from experts as a complete guide on Laboratory Testing of COVID-19.

## **5. APFCB Young Scientist Award Objectives:**

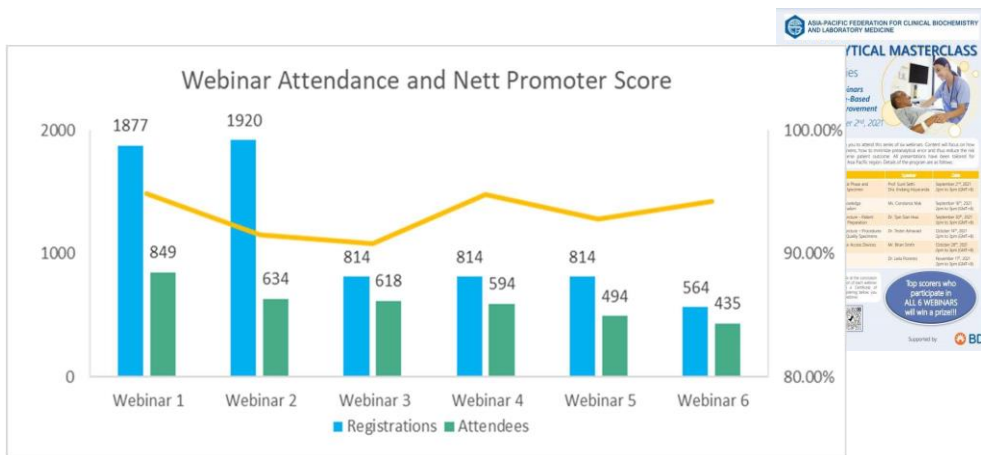
- a. The APFCB Young Scientist Award Competition: this is a scientific paper competition conducted by the APFCB through its Education and Laboratory Management Committee with the following objectives:
- b. Foster scientific potential of young scientists within the Asia-Pacific region,
- c. As a means of aiding and encouraging young scientists in written and oral communication of their research results
- d. There were 12 recipients at this meeting.

## **6. APFCB Becton Dickinson Pre-Analytical Improvement Project**

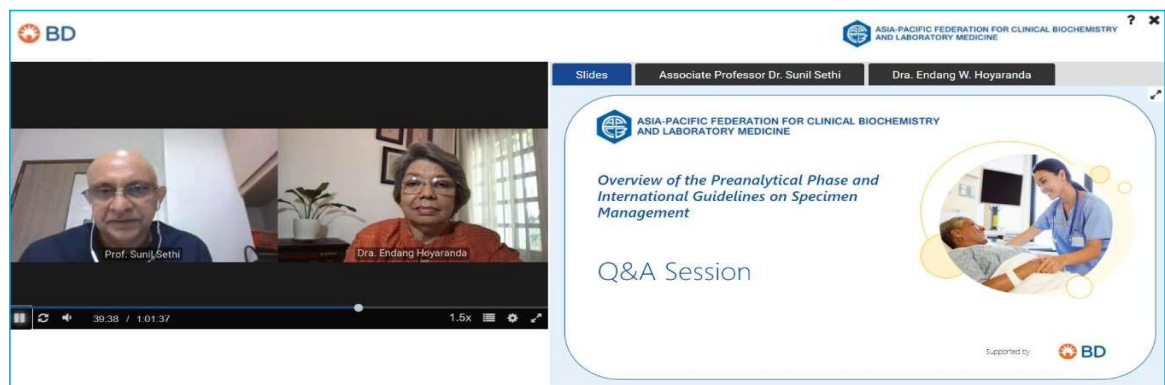
The collaboration of APFCB with BD to provide our members with a digital guideline for pre-analytical procedures was finalised (ppt, in English) and presented as a series of fortnightly webinars during 12 weeks in September through November 2021, with the following topics:

- a) Introduction to Pre-analytical Issues (Dr Sunil Sethi and Dra Endang Hoyaranda)
- b) Module A1 - Phlebotomist Attributes (Ms Constance Mak)
- c) Module A2 - Specimen Collection via Venipuncture (Dr Tjan Sian Hwa and Dr Tester Ashavaid) as Webinar 3 and 4
- d) Module A3 - Specimen Collection via Vascular Access Devices (Dr Brian Smith)
- e) Module A4 - Specimen Transportation (Dr Leila Florento)

The webinars were very successful, attended by hundreds of participants from the Asia-Pacific region, mainly ASEAN, but also from outside the region. It is intended that there will be an annual pre-analytic webinar series.



*Report on APFCB Preanalytical Masterclass Webinar Series  
 Reported by Shireen Kaur Pannu, Clinical Marketing Manager, BD*



## COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin

The APFCB Communications and Publications Committee (C-CP) is responsible for the development and management of the APFCB website and coordination of the online activities of the APFCB as well as for the online publication of APFCB news. The new Chair of Communications and Publications Committee for the term 2020-2022 was appointed on 4 February 2020.

Members of the committee for this term are as follows:

- Dr. Raja Elina Raja Aziddin (Chair)
- Dr. Purvi Purohit (Web Editor)
- Dr. Rojeet Shrestha (Media Coordinator)
- Dr. Pradeep Dabla
- Will Greene (Corporate -Roche) and
- Lim Ai Tin (Corporate -Siemens)

The new C-CP team took over just at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The pandemic which resulted in lockdowns, travel restrictions and limited face-to-face



interactions, prompted the team to strengthen the virtual presence of the APFCB through its official website, social media and the APFCB e-newsletter. Throughout the term, the C-CP has kept active communication and promoted the activities of the APFCB via electronic means not only to its member societies in the Asia Pacific region but also to countries under the IFCC.

## 1. APFCB website development, maintenance and management

The C-CP is responsible for the development, maintenance and management of the APFCB website. Since April 2020, the APFCB website has frequently been updated with the latest information on webinars, online courses, virtual conferences of the APFCB, its member societies and international professional bodies. Also available are scientific publications, guidelines, recorded and live webinars on various topics of interest.

The C-CP also oversees the management of the website which has been awarded to a third party, Ubitech Solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic which dramatically accelerated the trend towards working remotely and pushed more and more activities online saw shortcomings and limitations of the APFCB website. In view of this, the APFCB website is currently under review and a new and improved mobile dynamic website is currently under construction. Work on the new design began in May 2022. Launch of the new website is in January 2023.

## 2. APFCB social media development and management

In this age of digitalization, social media has become a powerful platform to communicate and disseminate news and information. As an effort for effective communication and distribution of news and updates of APFCB's activities among the national societies and clinical laboratory professionals, the C-CP created social media accounts for the APFCB. Since August 2020, the APFCB is officially available on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. Since then, the C-CP has been actively using social media to communicate and disseminate news and information on APFCB's recent activities which includes publications, congress and events, nominations and awards as well as promoting various e-learning activities and materials produced by the APFCB.

Links to the APFCB social media pages are as follows –



The image is a graphic with a blue border containing the APFCB logo and name at the top left. Below this, there are five QR codes arranged in a grid, each with a corresponding social media logo: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. A central graphic shows a hand holding a smartphone with a QR code on the screen and the text 'Scan Me!' next to it. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text 'Stay connected with us for our news and updates through social media'.

**Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

facebook

YouTube

Instagram

LinkedIn

Scan Me!

twitter

Stay connected with us for our news and updates through social media

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/APFCB/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/APFCB\\_LM](https://twitter.com/APFCB_LM)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/apfcb\\_lm/](https://www.instagram.com/apfcb_lm/)

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/apfcb/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoiicTsnVX-COjklgZHQ54Q>

### **3. Publication of online activities, educational material and resources**

The application of the virtual platform for educational and training purposes accelerated with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Realising the need for fast, accurate and reliable information on Covid-19, the C-CP took initiatives as early as April 2020 to upload scientific publications, guidelines, recorded and live webinars on COVID-19. From August 2020, with the assistance of the APFCB Education and Lab Management Committee (C-ELM) and corporate members, additional educational and training material on other topics of interest were uploaded on the APFCB website so as to provide its members easy access to education and training.

The C-CP team also collaborated with other committees such as the C-ELM, Scientific and C-CC as well the corporate sector to coordinate the APFCB online activities. Announcements of upcoming events such as the APFCB Masterclass webinars on Interpretative Commenting, webinars under the APFCB auspices, IFCC webinars, APFCB Congress, IFCC Townhall event, conferences of the APFCB member societies were made available on the homepage of the APFCB website <https://www.apfcb.org/index.html>. Also available on the homepage is the APFCB virtual workshop on Complete Guide on Laboratory Testing of COVID-19.

To date, recordings and slides of past APFCB Masterclass Webinars on Interpretative Commenting have been uploaded on the webinars page of the APFCB website at <https://www.apfcb.org/webinars.html>. Also available on the webinars page are the IFCC webinars. Links to past webinars organised by the APFCB corporate members under the auspices of the APFCB are listed under the Congress and Conferences Committee page at <https://www.apfcb.org/conferences.html>. Links to these events have also been made available on APFCB social media which are listed at the footnote on the APFCB website homepage.

### **4. Promotional Activities**

All upcoming events of the APFCB are promoted on the APFCB website homepage as well as on social media. In addition, the C-CP also sends out blast email invitations to members and reminders on upcoming events. The C-CP is continuously expanding the list of members in its database.

### **5. Publication of APFCB News**

The C-CP is also responsible for the online publication of APFCB News. The new elected chair of the C-CP was also appointed as Chief Editor of the APFCB News.

The newsletter is published twice yearly and is available on the APFCB website as an e-book and can be downloaded as a pdf copy. The APFCB News is an important publication of the APFCB as it contains reports of APFCB activities under the various committees, report on IFCC activities as well as reports from member societies.

To standardise article submissions, the C-CP team drew up a Guideline for the submission of reports, articles and advertisements to the APFCB News in May 2021. This guideline is available on the APFCB website homepage via this link: <https://www.apfcb.org/Submission%20Guidelines%20APFCB%20News%20050721.pdf>.

In following with tradition, the cover of the APFCB newsletter features paintings of Dr Tan It Koon, founder and past President of APFCB. In honour of his contributions and support to the APFCB, a feature article on Dr Tan It Koon, written by Mr Joseph Lopez, past president of APFCB was published in APFCB News 2021 Issue 1.

In line with the C-CP efforts to provide members access to educational material, educational articles have been included in the APFCB news from 2020 Issue 2 onwards. Since then, the response for educational article submission has been very encouraging. To further strengthen the educational content of the APFCB newsletter, opinion papers from experts have also been published in the newsletter since 2020 Issue 2. With this addition, the C-CP hopes to make the APFCB News a useful platform not only for sharing information on the activities carried out in the Asia Pacific region but also to make it a useful resource for knowledge sharing.

To encourage more participation and involvement of corporate members, a section called industry voice was introduced in 2020 Issue 1. This section contains reports of corporate member activities related to the APFCB such as reports on webinars under the auspices of the APFCB. In early 2021, rates for advertisements in the APFCB News were revised to make it more attractive to corporate members. Corporate members responded positively to the revised rates and the APFCB newsletter has since published advertisements in the newsletter from APFCB News 2021 Issue 1 onwards.

Another exciting feature added to APFCB News 2022 issue 1 is a quiz section which is a new feature of the newsletter. Questions in this section are based on the APFCB webinars which were organized in 2020-2021 and which are still available on the APFCB website.

As the newsletter is published twice a year, 2 newsletters have been published during 2022, following two editions a year during the previous years:



APFCB News 2022 Issue 1



APFCB News 2022 Issue 2

## CONGRESS AND CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Dr Praveen Sharma (India) - Chair

Members of the Committee:

- Woei Horng Fang (Taiwan)
- Ronaldo Puno (Philippines)
- Prasenjit Mitra (India) Member
- Will Greene (Roche - Corporate Member)
- Ai Tin Lim (Siemens - Corporate Member)

The mandate of the committee is to streamline the process of granting APFCB auspices to various scientific events like conferences, congresses, events organized by regional society members, and corporate member events. With the COVID-19 situation affecting the global scientific community, there were no applications for physical conferences. Rather, there was a surge in the events based on virtual platforms. The committee received a number of applications for grant of APFCB auspices. During 2021 - 2022, the committee members evaluated and granted APFCB auspices to the following scientific events.

### 1. Conferences and Courses:

Event name	Organised by	Event Start Date	Event End Date
North Zone ACBICON 2022	ACBI	22/04/22	23/04/22
29th AMBICON 2022	AMBI	18/07/22	23/07/22
15th IACC Conference 2022	IACC	25/06/22	27/06/22
Annual Academic sessions CCPSL AAS 2022	CCPSL	26/08/22	27/08/22
32nd MACB (virtual) Conference 2022	MACB	11/09/22	13/09/22
AACB 59th Annual Scientific Conference 2022	AACB	18/10/22	20/10/22
48th ACBICON 2022	ACBI	23/11/22	26/11/22
Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course XIII 2022	VACB	01/12/22	01/12/22

## 2. Corporate Member Events/Webinars:

Event name	Organised by	Event Date
Series of educational webinars focused on the Asia Pacific region related to Prenatal & Pre-eclampsia Screening, Clinical Biochemistry, Toxicology and 3 <sup>rd</sup> party QC	Thermo-Scientific	Multiple webinars 2021-2022

The committee also worked on updating the Congresses and Conferences webpage of APFCB to include the details of all the scientific events, which have been granted APFCB auspices.

### **CORPORATE MEMBERS:**

Corporate Representative: Mr Alexander Wong; Co-opted since May 2022 by Dr Douglas Chung, who was elected as full Corporate Representative starting January 2023

Main Highlights:

- a. Appointment of Corporate Representatives to APFCB Standing Committees
- b. Zoomification of Corporate Member Activities
- c. Sponsorships to various APFCB activities
- d. Scholarships for Young Scientists

#### 1.1. **Active corporate members**

There are a total of 14 active Corporate Members. In alphabetical order, they are:

- Abbott Laboratories (Singapore) Pte Ltd.
- Beckman Coulter Hong Kong Ltd.
- Becton Dickinson Holdings Pte. Ltd.
- Bio-Rad Laboratories (Singapore) Pte Ltd.
- DiaSys Diagnostic Systems GmbH
- Quidel Ortho\*
- Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.
- Sekisui Medical Co Ltd.
- Siemens Healthcare Pte Ltd.
- Snibe Diagnostics
- Sukraa Software Solution Pvt Ltd.
- Sysmex Corporation
- RCPAQAP
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Waters Pacific Pte Ltd.

#### 1.2. **New corporate members**

One new corporate member, Waters Pacific Pte Ltd., was added. Another new member which will be added in January 2023 is Greiner Bio One

## **2. Corporate Representative**

In November 2021 there was a call for the Corporate Members to nominate and vote for candidates for the next Corporate Representative. Dr Douglas Chung from Abbott has been elected to serve as Corporate Representative for the next term commencing on 1 January 2023. He will also co-opt the remainder of the current term from June 2022 to December 2022 as the previous holder, Mr Alexander Wong, has vacated the position.

## **3. Benefits of Corporate Membership**

### **3.1. Branding Opportunities**

Branding opportunities with APFCB include: logo of Corporate Member on APFCB website, acknowledgement during APFCB presentations delivered across the world, linking corporate educational materials to APFCB website, etc.

### **3.2. Market Outreach**

Reach laboratory professionals and scientific leaders across Asia Pacific with touchpoints including e-Newsletters, APFCB Congresses, Joint APFCB Workshops/ Symposia, and Specialty Meetings under APFCB Auspices.

### **3.3. Active participation in APFCB committees**

- 3.3.1. Work closely with Laboratory KOLs across the Asia Pacific region on educational or scientific work groups aligned with Corporate Member's interests
- 3.3.2. Contribute to decisions for congresses & seminars in Asia Pacific
- 3.3.3. Propose sponsorship opportunities aligned with Corporate Member's interests

### **3.4. Special discounts for Corporate Members**

- 3.4.1. 10% discounts for APFCB Congress, for Corporate Members of > 3 years
- 3.4.2. Free publication of scientific articles or reviews on e-Newsletters

## **4. Industry articles featured in newsletter**

The APFCB newsletter (2 issues per year) provides a platform for Corporate Members to contribute articles that are of educational or scientific relevance. Recent issues have included the articles listed below:

- **2022 Issue 1**
  - How coagulation diagnostics support COVID- 19 vaccination and patient management - Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific
  - CSF biomarkers and their role in Alzheimer’s disease - Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific
  - Detection of the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) in patients with occult hepatitis B using a sensitive HBsAg assay - Abbott Laboratories, Singapore
  - Analytical Performance evaluation of the New VITROS TSH3 assay on VITROS XT 7600 Integrated System - Toprani Advanced Lab Systems
  - Open vs. closed molecular testing platforms: choosing the right system for your clinical lab - Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific
  - Total Lab Automation Integrated with Fleet of New Generation Atellica Solution: Driving Better outcomes – Dr Lal PathLabs
  
- **2022 Issue 2**
  - A report on Molecular Diagnostics QC webinar: Webinar on Molecular Diagnostics and Quality Control – Thermo Fisher

## **5. Ethical and Compliance Guidelines - APACMed Code of Ethical Conduct**

The Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association (APACMed) represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical equipment, devices and in-vitro diagnostics, industry associations and other key stakeholders associated with the medical technology industry in Asia Pacific. Many APFCB Corporate Members (including Abbott, Beckman Coulter, BD, Roche, Siemens, Sysmex, Thermo Fisher) are also part of APACMed.

The APACMed Code of Ethical Conduct seeks to provide a standardized guideline for how Corporate Members should interact with healthcare practitioners and professional societies across Asia Pacific. This Code was first effective on 1 January 2016. The latest amendment took effect on 1 July 2020. The full document can be found on the APACMed website at the following link:

<https://apacmed.org/apacmed-code-of-ethical-conduct/>

APFCB Corporate Members are encouraged to be familiar the Code and operate in compliance with the guidance therein.

## **6. COVID-19 and the role of diagnostics**

APACMed has developed a white paper summarising the role of diagnostics in the management of COVID-19. The full report can be accessed at the link below:  
<https://apacmed.org/content/uploads/2021/07/APACMed-The-Critical-Role-of-Diagnostics-in-COVID-19-Management.pdf>

This report highlights some key recommendations that the industry can follow in supporting the fight against the pandemic. These include:

- 6.1. Community surveillance & hotspot management
- 6.2. Economic resilience & recovery
- 6.3. Travel resumption
- 6.4. Supporting vaccine roll-out

February 2023

Reported by : Endang Hoyaranda (President 2022) based on reports by Committee Chairs Sam Vasikaran, Tony Badrick, Raja Elina, Praveen Sharma and Corporate Representative Douglas Chung.