



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

### **Report from the APFCB President January 2014 till November 2016**

#### **1. APFCB members**

##### **Ordinary members**

The following National Societies are members of the APFCB:

1. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
2. Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM)
3. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)
4. Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)
5. Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry (IACC)
6. Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)
7. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
8. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
9. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)
10. Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL)
11. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)
12. Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)
13. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)
14. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists (SACB)
15. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL)
16. Chinese Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taiwan (CACB)
17. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemists (TACB)
18. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

##### **Corporate Members**

1. Abbott Diagnostics
2. Beckman Coulter
3. Becton Dickinson
4. Bio-Rad
5. Diasorin Ltd
6. Diasys Diagnostic Systems, GmbH
7. Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co
8. Koprán Laboratories Ltd
9. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
10. Randox Laboratories
11. Roche Diagnostics
12. Sekisui Chemical Co Ltd

13. Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co Ltd
14. Siemens Healthineers
15. SNIBE (Shenzhen New Industries Biomedical Engineering Co Ltd)
16. Sukraa Software Solution Pvt Ltd
17. Sysmex
18. Technidata Medical Software

PM Separations rescinded its membership of the APFCB in 2016

#### **Affiliate Members**

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

#### **New Members**

	<b>Name of Association</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Ordinary Member Affiliate Member Corporate Member</b>	<b>Joining Date</b>
1	Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL)	Mongolia	Affiliate Member Ordinary Member	May 2014 February 2015
2	Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)	Iran	Ordinary Member	August 2016
3	Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)	Nepal	Affiliate Member	October 2015
4	College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL)	Sri Lanka	Affiliate Member	February 2016
5	Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)	Philippines	Affiliate Member	August 2016
6	Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co (Wondfo)	China	Corporate Member	April 2015
7	Shenzhen New Industries Biomedical Engineering Co, Ltd	China	Corporate Member	October 2015

## 2. Office Bearers and Chairs of Standing Committees (1 January 2014 till 31 December 2016)

The Executive Board (EB) of the APFCB was elected at the 13<sup>th</sup> General Council Meeting in Bali on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### 1) Executive Board

President	Leslie Lai (Malaysia)
Immediate Past President	Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Vice-President	Sunil Sethi (Singapore)
Secretary	Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)
Treasurer	Elizabeth Frank (India)
Corporate Representative	Martin Fuhrer (Siemens) until 31 August 2015 Alexander Wong (Siemens) from 1 September 2015

### Resignation of Mr Martin Fuhrer, Corporate Representative to the EB

The former Corporate Representative to the EB, Mr Martin Fuhrer, resigned from Siemens on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. The EB would like to record its thanks to Mr Martin Fuhrer for his invaluable and tireless contributions to the APFCB which has helped greatly in the advancement and growth of the APFCB and its activities. Mr Martin Fuhrer was elected by the Corporate members as the Corporate Representative to the APFCB EB in October 2010 in Seoul, Korea and re-elected for a second term in October 2013 in Bali, Indonesia.

### New Corporate Representative to the APFCB EB

The APFCB EB welcomed the new Corporate Representative, Dr Alexander Wong of Siemens Healthineers at the EB meeting held in the Siemens headquarters in Singapore on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Dr Alexander Wong was appointed to be the new Corporate Representative with the agreement of the Corporate members from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

### 2) Chairs of Standing Committees appointed by the EB

Communications C-Comm)	Praveen Sharma (India)
Congress and conferences (C-CC)	Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)
Education and Laboratory Management (C-ELM)	Tony Badrick (Australia)
Scientific (C-Sci)	Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)

**Committee members and Corresponding members** to the four standing committees of the APFCB were appointed for a three year term beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**3. Resolutions adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting in Bali.**

**RESOLVED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

The main amendments resolved at the 13<sup>th</sup> APFCB Congress were as follows:

- 1) The Federation previously allowed persons, besides societies, to become members of the Federation. This was changed in the amendments, where only societies are eligible to become members of the Federation.
- 2) The scope of the Federation was expanded to include laboratory medicine rather than only clinical biochemistry, in keeping with the previous amendment of the change of name of the Federation to Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Several items in the constitution were corrected to include this change of scope.
- 3) The Federation previously allowed societies from outside the region to become members, which is now limited to the Asia-Pacific region only.
- 4) The rights of the Affiliate members were specified. Affiliate members have all the rights of Ordinary members with the following exceptions: voting rights, chairmanship of committees and hosting congresses. In case an ordinary member exists in the same country, congresses may be organised together with the ordinary member.
- 5) Re-election of Executive Board members was limited to one term in the same office, i.e., a maximum of two terms in the same office.

## RESOLVED NON- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Item	Original Rule	Adopted Rule	Rationale
1	Affiliate membership fee: SGD 300.00 per three years	Affiliate membership fee: SGD 200.00 per year	This is a periodic review, as the ordinary membership fee has already been adjusted in 2010.
2	Education Committee and Laboratory Management exist as separate committees	Education Committee and Laboratory Management Committee merged as one committee	Activities of both committees overlap and often covering the same topics.
3	No rule: EB resolutions - practiced by voting based on simple majority, but not written anywhere in any document.	New rule: EB resolution - voting based on simple majority. In the event of a tie in the voting, the President shall exercise the right to break the tie by casting a vote	New rule inserted as requested by Registry of Societies (ROS), as this regulation is not in the constitution.
4	No financial support for Committee Chairs to attend APFCB Congresses	Committee Chairs will be completely supported financially to attend the APFCB Congress once in three years, including flight ticket, airport taxi and tax, visa fees, and accommodation at the congress location (which is not supported by the host).	Committee chairs need to be present at meetings while funding for their travel is not always available.

#### 4. 13<sup>th</sup> APFCB Congress Financial Report

The APFCB received 23% of the profits of the APFCB Congress 2013 in June 2014 which amounted to SGD 61,589.23.

#### 5. Executive Board meetings

- 1) 1 December 2014 in Manila at The Manila Hotel during PAMET's Golden Jubilee Celebration
- 2) 6 September 2015 in Singapore at the Siemens Headquarters
- 3) 27- 28 February 2016 in Jakarta at the Prodia Labs Headquarters

**6. Annual IFCC grant**

The IFCC gives the APFCB CHF 10,000 per year which is paid into the Philanthropic Fund. This grant funds travel awards for young scientists to attend conferences to present their research.

**7. Anniversary celebrations of members**

**1) PAMET Golden Jubilee Celebration**

PAMET celebrated their Golden Anniversary and 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 in Manila. Dr Leslie Lai presented the President of PAMET, Dr Romeo Joseph Ignatio with a pewter plaque from the APFCB as a memento on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 during the opening ceremony.



*From left to right: Dr Leila Florento (Immediate Past President of PAMET), Ms. Agnes Medenilla, Mrs. Norma Chang, Dr Leslie Lai (President of APFCB), Dr Romeo Joseph Ignatio (President of PAMET) and Mrs. Marilyn Atienza.*

## 2) MACB Silver Jubilee Celebration

The MACB celebrated its Silver Jubilee at its Annual Scientific Conference from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at the Double Tree Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The President of APFCB presented the President of MACB, Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin with a crystal memento from the APFCB.



*From left to right: Dr Leslie Lai, President of APFCB, VIP Dato' Tan Yoke Hwa, Director of Allied Health Sciences Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin. President of MACB.*

## 8. Memorandum of Understanding

### 1) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between APFCB and AACC

An MoU between APFCB and AACC was signed on 11 December 2014 between the President of APFCB and the CEO of AACC, Dr Janet Kreizman. The MOU was effective for a period of two years from 1.1.2015 till 31.12.2016. A new MoU was signed on 11 November 2016 effective for three years from 1.1.2017.

## 2) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between APFCB and World Association of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)

An MoU between APFCB and WASPaLM was signed on 17 May 2011 for a three-year term during the IFCC WorldLab in Berlin by the Presidents of APFCB (Dr Leslie Lai) and WASPaLM (Prof Michael Oellerich). The MoU was renewed on 27 August 2014 for another three-year term during the International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine held in Kuala Lumpur by the Presidents of APFCB (Dr Leslie Lai) and WASPaLM (Distinguished Professor Datuk Looi Lai Meng).



*Sitting down from left to right: Dr Leslie Lai (President of APFCB) and Distinguished Professor Datuk Looi Lai Meng (President of WASPaLM). Standing from left to right: Associate Prof Sunil Sethi (Vice President of APFCB), Prof Emeritus Dr Cheong Soon Keng (President, College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia), Prof Dobrin Svinarov (WASPalm bureau member), Prof Jagdish Butany (Secretary-Treasurer of WASPaLM) , Prof Marilene Melo (WASPalm bureau member) , Dr David Wilkinson (WASPalm bureau member), Prof Michael Oellerich (WASPalm Director for Europe), Prof Stewart Bryant (WASPalm Director for Australasia) , Prof Masami Murakami (WASPalm President-Elect).*



**9. Education and Laboratory Management Committee  
Chair: Dr Tony Badrick (Australia)**

<b>Committee members</b>	
Chair	Tony Badrick (Australia)
Ex-officio	Leslie Lai
Secretary	July Kumalawati (Indonesia)
Members	DM Vasudevan (India)
	Yong Hwa Lee (Korea)
<b>Corresponding members</b>	
CSLM (China)	Wang Zhiguo
CACLM (China) - Affiliate member	Jinming
HKSCC (Hong Kong)	Joseph Lee
AMBI (India)	Jasbindrer Kaur
JSCC (Japan)	Susumu Osawa
MAML (Macau-China) - affiliate member	Henry Tong Hoi Yee
MACB (Malaysia)	Joseph Lopez
NAMLS (Nepal)	Ram Vinod Mahato
PSCP (Pakistan)	Rizawan Hashim
PAMET (Philippines)	Mary Georgene Jimenez
SACB (Singapore)	Sharon Saw
ACBSL (Sri Lanka)	H Weerawarna
CACB (Taiwan)	Hsiao-Chen Ning
TACB Thailand)	Saravut Saichanma
VACB (Vietnam)	Pham Thien Ngoc

**A. IFCC Visiting Lecturer for 2015-2016: Prof Howard Morris (Australia)**

Prof Morris is the IFCC Visiting Lecturer for 2015-2016 and he has delivered the following lectures:

- Hong Kong - 'Strategies for Interpretation and Commenting on Clinical Laboratory Results'. January 2015
- China Association of Clinical Biochemistry Annual Scientific Meeting, Taipei 21 March 2015 Plenary Speaker "Vitamin D: Molecular Actions across a Variety of Biological Systems"
- The Endocrine Society and Diabetes Association of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) 36th Annual Meeting, Taipei 21 March 2015 Plenary Speaker "Vitamin D: Molecular Actions across a Variety of Biological Systems"
- Visiting Lecturer, NCKU-Hospital, Tainan 23 March 2015
- 2015 Chinese National Meeting of Laboratory Medicine, Nanjing China 9 – 12 September 2015, symposium presentations "Bone Markers and their Use 2015" and "Standardization and Harmonization in Laboratory Medicine".
- Korea - LMCE2016 (KSCC) "Healthcare, laboratory medicine and patient care" and a symposium presentation title "Is vitamin D critical for health outcomes? When to assess vitamin D status". October 2016
- Malaysia (MACB) - 'Is Vitamin D Critical for Improved Health Outcomes?' and 'When to Assess Vitamin D Status'. July 2016
- Australia (AACB) – "Vitamin D and bone disease" Sydney, Sep 2015

## **B. APFCB Travelling Lecturers**

### **1) 2013 and 2014: Prof Sunil Sethi (Singapore)**

The three topics provided were:

- Managing Laboratory Informatics, Middleware and Process Control.
- The Clinical and Technical Demands of Laboratory Cardiac Biomarkers
- Developments in Laboratory Diagnosis and Monitoring of Diabetes and Related Metabolic Disorders.

Lectures were delivered in Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

## **2) 2015 and 2016: Dr Graham Jones (Australia)**

The Travelling Lecturer, Dr Graham Jones spoke on the topic of Chronic Kidney Disease in the following countries: Singapore, Vietnam, India (AMBI), China and Hong Kong. Graham Jones will also deliver a Plenary Lecture at the APFCB Congress in Taipei in 2016.

## **C. Travel Awards**

There were 4 APFCB-Abbott Travel Awardees for the IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul, June 2014 and 2 APFCB Travel Awardees for the AACB Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, October 2014

Five APFCB-Siemens Travel Awards were awarded to five young scientists to participate at the 14th APFCB Congress in Taiwan based on their abstracts. These awards were hotly contested with forty-eight applications. Each awardee will receive SGD 2,000 after the congress. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances one awardee has withdrawn. Hence, there will be four APFCB-Siemens Travel Awards made. On the basis of their oral presentations of the four Travel Award winners during the congress a first prize of SGD 1,000 and a second prize of SGD 500 will be awarded. These travel awards and prizes are generously sponsored by Siemens Healthcare.

The APFCB also awarded ten travel awards of SGD 1,000 each to young scientists who were ranked the next highest in the scoring.

## **D. APFCB Congress Workshops**

**APFCB Symposium on Awareness of Environmental Impact of Clinical Laboratories at the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Istanbul in June 2014.**

The programme was as follows:

- Environmental guidelines in laboratories  
J. Lopez (Malaysia)
- Adopting environmental guidelines and cost savings  
T. Badrick (Australia)
- Environmental laboratory facilities management  
D. Jackson (USA)

## Workshops at the 14<sup>th</sup> APFCB Congress in Taipei

- 1) Joint APFCB-WASPaLM Accreditation Workshop with the following topics covered by either APFCB or WASPaLM speakers:
  - Quality Systems Approach to Improvement  
T Badrick
  - Introduction to ISO 15189  
Elizabeth Frank
  - Ethical Practice/Governance  
Lai-Meng Looi
  - Staff training and competence  
Jagdish Butany
  
- 2) The other workshop will be an APFCB Pre-analytical workshop with the following topics and speakers:
  - Introduction and Chair  
Elizabeth Frank
  - Pre-analytical errors and quality improvement  
Qing He Meng
  - Phlebotomy competence – solutions!  
Endang Hoyaranda
  - Haemolysis, an ongoing problem  
Tony Badrick
  
- 3) Roche-sponsored hypothetical entitled “Unlocking the value the diagnostics - Perspectives from across the healthcare chain” organised by the C-ELM in conjunction with Roche. The aim of this activity is to raise awareness of the importance of Pathology testing.

Chair: Leslie Lai

Facilitator: Ms Jenny Brockie, Journalist and host of Insight, SBS TV, Australia

Panelists:

Dr Maurizio Ferrari  
Full Professor of Clinical Pathology, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Mr David Lu  
Deputy Regional Chief Medical Officer & Vice President, Life & Health  
Products, Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd, Hong Kong

Prof Howard Morris  
Professor of Medical Sciences at the University of South Australia and  
Clinical Scientist in Chemical Pathology at SA Pathology, Adelaide,  
South Australia.

Dr Aw Tar Choon  
Senior Consultant, Laboratory Medicine, Changi General Hospital,  
Singapore

Dr Raphael Twerenbold  
MD, Department of Cardiology, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

Mr Lance Little  
Managing Director of Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific

#### **E. Interpretative comments programme**

There were seven (7) cases in 2014 and six cases in 2015.

In 2016, the Committee continued to offer a programme which ran over the period of February to December and contained 7 cases. The purpose of these cases and suggested responses is to provide some clinical cases for continuing education. There was wide range of responses with between 15 and 45 participants.

#### **F. APFCB-Roche LEAN Clinical Laboratory Workshop**

The first APFCB-Roche LEAN Clinical Laboratory Workshops, held in conjunction with the VACB, were conducted in June 2016 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Initially, 15 Trainers in each centre were trained by Roche trainers. A second course was run in September 2016 in Ho Chi Minh City where a further 15 laboratory staff were trained by the trainers. The course content is constructed using three principles of learning:

##### **Lean Simulation**

Hands-on simulation exercises to enable participants to apply the Lean principles and tools in a fun and interactive way

##### **Process Mapping**

Visually illustrate and convey the essential details of lab processes for better understanding of lab operations

## **Problem Solving**

Brainstorm solutions based on Lean principles to address impending lab challenges and plan for implementation

The aim of this training is to cascade the concepts of Lean across Vietnam. The APFCB and VACB are part of the Governance Board who, together with Roche, will oversee the quality of the courses and monitor the success of the project.

Planning began in 2015 with Roche Diagnostics to develop a series of **workshops/courses** dealing with Lean- Six Sigma. These workshops will be jointly organized by the local APFCB-affiliated society, the APFCB and Roche Diagnostics. The first of these was run in Vietnam in 2016.

## **G. APFCB-MACB Chemical Pathology Course**

The first Chemical Pathology Course of the APFCB was co-organised with the MACB from 19-21 September 2016, in Kuala Lumpur. This course was the brainchild of C-CC Chair (Joseph Lopez) and Dr Tony Badrick, the C-ELM Chair, both of whom had wanted to expand the educational services provided by the APFCB especially to countries that were in need of it.

The selection of the MACB was an appropriate choice since it plans to hold professional examinations for clinical biochemists. The MACB is currently working towards government recognition of such examinations.

The course ran over 3 days with content based on the AACB Chemical Pathology Course and is a pilot for this type of Course in the Region. This was the first of these APFCB-sponsored courses which are designed to prepare candidates for professional exams as well as provide general education for laboratory staff. The topics cover fairly basic aspects of chemical pathology to refresh basic knowledge in the principles of measurement and basic pathological processes. There is also a case study component to allow some analysis, interaction and team building.

The course was attended by about 65 registrants who included pathologists, scientists and technologists. The faculty included Dr Tony Badrick, Dr Louise Weinholt from the RCPAQAP, Dr Raja Elina Aziddin (MACB President) and Dr Loh Tze Ping of Singapore.

The course was well received by the registrants and the venue and facilities were appropriate for this inaugural course. The course notes were particularly good and will be a valuable resource for those studying.

## **H. Chemical Pathology and POCT Courses Vietnam – Ronda Greaves**

The following Chemical Pathology courses and workshops have been organised and delivered in association with Roche Diagnostics:

- 1) The 8<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ho Chi Minh City) was conducted at the New World Hotel by Dr Ronda Greaves and local Vietnamese Quality experts. This one day programme on Saturday 9th July 2016 attracted approximately 350 participants and included a delegation from Myanmar.
- 2) The 8<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ha Noi) was conducted at the Intercontinental Westlake by Dr Ronda Greaves and local Vietnamese Quality experts. This one day programme on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 attracted approximately 200 participants.
- 3) The 7<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ha Noi) was conducted at the Sofitel Plaza. Associate Prof Graham Jones (APFCB Travelling Lecturer) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this one day programme on Tuesday 9th June 2015 with approximately 200 participants.
- 4) The 7<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ho Chi Minh City) was conducted at the Equatorial Hotel. Associate Prof Graham Jones (APFCB Travelling Lecturer) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this one day programme on Saturday 6th June 2015 reaching out to approximately 350 participants face to face plus live streaming of the course regionally.
- 5) The 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ho Chi Minh City) was conducted at the Hotel Nikko. Mrs Jan Gill (RCPAQAP) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this one day programme on Saturday 14th June 2014. (approximately 350 participants)
- 6) The 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (Ha Noi) was conducted at the Sofitel Plaza. Mrs Jan Gill (RCPAQAP) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this one day program on Tuesday 10th June 2014. (approximately 200 participants).
- 7) POCT half-day seminar was conducted in association with Jo-Ann Northfield, Mr Eric Law (Roche Diagnostics Singapore) and Dr Ronda Greaves to present quality management solutions for POCT to senior hospital officials. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- 8) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Point of Care Testing Workshop, Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam was conducted at RMIT University's Ho Chi Minh City Campus in District 3. Mrs Jo-Ann Northfield (Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne POCT phlebotomy nurse / technician and RMIT POCT Course workshop leader) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this workshop. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- 9) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vietnam Point of Care Patient Testing Workshop was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City at the Hotel Nikko. Mrs Jan Gill (RCPAQAP) and Dr Ronda Greaves conducted this workshop on Thursday 12th June 2014.

The Chemical Pathology Courses organised by Ronda Greaves now are under the structure of the C-ELM. These courses are run each year in Hanoi and HCMC.

Topics covered in the last three Courses are the following:

#### **2014**

- New Trends in Diabetes: The HbA1c story  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
  
- Principles of Immunoassay  
Janice Gill, Consultant RCPAQAP Chemical Pathology
  
- Developing a new diagnostic marker for the diagnosis of neuroblastoma in Vietnam  
PhD. Tran Thi Chi Mai, Clinical Biochemist, Hanoi Medical University, Ha Noi
  
- Planning your research  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
  
- The Role of Cardiac Biomarkers in Cardiovascular  
Janice Gill, Consultant RCPAQAP Chemical Pathology

#### **2015**

- Chronic Kidney Disease – the role of routine Laboratory  
Associate Professor Graham Jones MAACB, APFCB Travelling Lecturer
  
- Lipid panel & HbA1c testing in Obesity & Diabetes  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
  
- The importance of Traceability  
Associate Professor Graham Jones MAACB, APFCB Travelling Lecturer
  
- Endocrinology for the Core Laboratory  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
  
- S100B concentration & its relationship with clinical psychopathology in schizophrenic patients  
Dr. Dinh Thi Thanh Hoa, Biochemistry Department, Bach Mai hospital, Ha Noi



## 2016

- APAC Lab Bench-marking survey  
Mr. Mah Sam Yew,  
Consulting Manager, Lab Workflow Solutions  
Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- IFCC e-Academy  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
- Current situation and Government plan to drive better quality of  
Clinical Laboratory in Vietnam  
Dr. Nguyen Trong Khoa,  
Vice Director of Medical Services Administration, MoH
- Laboratory Accreditation - the Australian Experience  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)
- Activities for laboratory quality from 2006 - 2016 and the plan of  
Central Government for quality improvement to 2025  
Dr. Tran Huu Tam,  
Director of Center for Standardization and Quality Control in  
Medical Laboratory of HCMC
- The importance of Internal QC  
Dr. Ronda Greaves MAACB, PhD, FFSc (RCPA)

### I. APFCB Symposium at the AACC Annual Meeting in Philadelphia 2016

Addressing Pre- and Post-analytical Issues in Developing Countries  
conducted Wednesday, 3 August 2016, 2.30-5.00 pm at the AACC Annual  
Scientific Meeting in Philadelphia.

The symposium by APFCB was scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the  
conference. Each speaker presented his/her presentation for 40 minutes  
after a 5 minute presentation on the APFCB by the moderator, Tony  
Badrick, followed by Q&A sessions right after each speaker. The  
symposium was attended by around 60 persons which was common  
throughout the conference except the plenary sessions and some  
sessions which had well-known, popular, and excellent speakers. The  
speakers are pleased to report that the lectures were well received which  
was apparent from the many questions raised.

- Driving Change in the Pre-analytical Phase  
Endang Hoyaranda

- Ethnic and regional differences in common laboratory tests: their implications for the globalization of medical practice  
Kiyoshi Ichihara
- The APFCB Interpretative Comments Program  
Tony Badrick

**J. APFCB Symposium at WASPaLM World Congress, 18-21 November 2015**

The APFCB developed and sponsored a symposium on Quality Assurance at the WASPaLM World Congress in Cancun on 21st November 2015.

The titles of the lectures and the speakers were:

- Setting Quality Goals  
Graham Jones, Australia
- Troubleshooting failed QC - lot to lot and rerunning  
Loh Tze Ping, Singapore
- Pre-analytical QA  
Elizabeth Frank, India

**K. APFCB Paediatric / Endocrine Symposium at the EFLM-UEMS Conference Warsaw, September 2016.**

This APFCB Symposium incorporated the following presentations:

- Dr Tze Ping Loh - National Hospital Singapore  
“Clinical Utility of Steroid Analysis”
- Dr CS Ho - Prince of Wales Hospital Hong Kong  
“Mass Spectrometry Analysis of Serum Steroids”
- Prof Stefan Wudy – Giessen University Germany  
“Interpreting Mass Spectrometry Data for the Diagnosis of Disorders of Sex Development”
- Dr Ronda Greaves - RMIT  
“Mass Spectrometry Reference Intervals for Serum Steroids”.

**L. Development of material for self-directed learning for QA/QC/Lab accreditation on the webpage**

The Committee has been involved with ongoing development of the APFCB Webpage. The focus has been on educational resources. The QA/QC tab of the webpage has added some material supplied from Randox.

**10. Scientific Committee (C-Sc)  
Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)**

Committee members	
Chair	Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)
Ex-officio	Leslie Lai
Secretary	Binod Yadav (Nepal)
Members	Ronda Greaves (Australia)
	Graham Jones (Australia)
	Dilshad A Khan (Pakistan)
	Raja Elina Raja Aziddin (Malaysia)
<b>Corresponding members</b>	
CSLM (China)	Chen Wen Xiang
CACLM (China) - Affiliate member	Chen Wen Xiang
HKSCC (Hong Kong)	Allen K Chan
ACBI (India)	Tester Ashavaid
IACC (Indonesia)	Miswar Fattah
KSCC (Korea)	Jung Han Song
MAML (Macau-China) - Affiliate member	Hoo Chai
NAMLS (Nepal)	Binod Yadav
PAMET (Philippines)	Leila M Florento
SACB (Singapore)	Sharon Saw

ACBSL (Sri Lanka)	Dr Gaya Katulanda
CACB (Taiwan)	Shu Chu Shiesh
TACB (Thailand)	Prabhop Dansethakul
VACB (Vietnam)	Nguyen Bao Toan

**A. Reports and development of web-site on the 2009 Asian study for collaborative derivation of reference intervals (RIs).**

The Asian study conducted as a collaborative work of APFCB with the IFCC Committee on the Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL) was completed in 2009. Two keynote papers were published in 2013 (Clin Chem Lab Med 2013; 51:1429–42, and Clin Chem Lab Med 2013; 51:1443–57). The large dataset from 3500 healthy individuals living in 7 APFCB countries are composed of test results for 72 major analytes and detailed information from health-status questionnaire. The dataset is an invaluable source data for exploring biological sources of variation (SV) of laboratory tests. Therefore, secondary analyses of the dataset were performed. Over the past three years, the following 5 APFCB papers were published.

- 1) Shimizu Y, Ichihara K on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Sources of variation analysis and derivation of reference intervals for ALP, LDH, and amylase isozymes using sera from the Asian multicenter study on reference values. Clin Chim Acta 2015; 446: 64–72.
- 2) Wang X, Ichihara K, Xu G, Itoh Y. Call for the use of a common equation for glomerular filtration rate estimation in East and South-east Asia. Clin Biochem 2014; 47:1214–19.
- 3) Ichihara K, Yamamoto Y, Hotta T, Hosogaya S, Miyachi H, Itoh Y, Ishibashi M, Kang D on behalf of the Committee on Common Reference Intervals, Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry. Collaborative derivation of reference intervals for major clinical laboratory tests in Japan. Ann Clin Biochem 2016; 53:347–56.
- 4) Masuda S, Ichihara K, Yamanishi H, Hirano Y, Tanaka Y, Kamisako T on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Evaluation of menstrual cycle-related changes in 85 clinical laboratory analytes. Ann Clin Biochem 2016; 53:365–76.

- 5) Jono H, Su Y, Obayashi K, et al, on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Sources of variation of transthyretin in healthy subjects in East and Southeast Asia: Clinical and experimental evidence for the effect of alcohol on transthyretin metabolism. Clin Chim Acta 2016; 458:5–11.

At the same time, in June 2015, the following web-site was set up to publicize the results: <http://c-sci-apfcb.net/eblm/index.html>

It allows interactive viewing of RVs for EBLM by specifying sources of variation (sex, age, country, BMI, ABO blood groups, level of alcohol drinking, smoking, and exercise) or by specifying any two laboratory tests for analysis of correlation.

## **B. Collaboration to the global multicentre study on reference values (RVs)**

The study, planned and coordinated by C-RIDL (IFCC) was launched in December of 2011. As of now, 19 countries around the world joined the study, and 7 reports including two intermediary reports were published (see below). Among the 19, 8 countries are from Asia, all are members of the APFCB, and are contributing greatly to the global study. At the time of previous report by the Scientific Committee for the period 2010–2013, only the status of Japan, China, India, and Philippine was described. After 2014, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Malaysia joined. The progress in each country is described briefly below:

**China:** Led by Dr. Ling Qiu of Beijing Union Medical College Hospital, a total of 3,148 volunteers were recruited by 2013 from 7 provinces nationwide. More than 50 analytes were measured with support from Beckman-Coulter (BC) China. The investigators recently published two reports on China-specific RIs and SVs of RVs, and writing more papers base on the results.

**Japan:** Recruitment of 655 healthy volunteers and measurements for 56 analytes was completed by 2012 with support from BC Japan. Ichihara Research Laboratory in Yamaguchi University has been acting as the data center and provides services for each country that requires data analysis of RVs and for derivation of RIs by use of up-to-date methodologies. Since Japanese RIs have been established from the 2009 Asian study, the newly obtained RVs from Japan have been dedicated for investigating an optimal protocol and statistical methods for derivation of RIs and comparison of SVs of RVs across the countries.

**India:** The study led by Dr. Tester Ashavaid and coordinated by Dr. Swarup A. V. Shah of P. D. Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Mumbai was completed by 2013 with recruitment of 512 volunteers and measurements of 57 analytes. With support from BC India, Abbott, and Johnson & Johnson, the investigators also evaluated between platform differences in test results for both routine biochemical and immunologically measured analytes. The analytical results are to be published but their results were included in the IFCC interim reports on the global study together with those from China, Japan, Philippines, and Pakistan.

**Philippines:** A team of laboratory technicians in Iloilo city launched the study in 2013 under the auspices of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) and San Agustin University. 757 volunteers were recruited by PAMET, but PAMET experienced problems with the analytical platform which they originally planned to use. Therefore, in 2015, all the specimens were brought to Japan and 31 analytes were measured using BC reagents. Their country-specific RIs remain to be published from the results, but their study results have been included in the interim reports.

**Nepal:** The study led by Dr. Binod Yadav of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, started in 2013. However, a problem was noted with the assay system as in Philippines, especially in measuring the panel of sera which is essential for standardisation and comparison of results with other countries. Then, Mr. Ram Vinod of the same university made efforts to recruit volunteers again. The test results for 22 biochemistry analytes from 630 healthy volunteers were completed in April 2016. Data analysis remains to be completed, but the results will be reported in the final reports of the global study.

**Bangladesh:** A team led by Dr. Firoz Ahmed in International Center on Diarrheal Disease Research joined the study in 2015 with support from BC and Abbott. Recruitment of 580 volunteers and measurements of 61 analytes, including CBC, were completed by July 2016. The data analysis remains incomplete, but will be reported in the final C-RIDL report.

**Pakistan:** Two institutions (Aga Khan University in Karachi and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rawalpindi) joined the study in 2014 independently, respectively led by Dr. Farooq Ghani and Prof. Dilshad Khan with recruitment of 607 and 560 volunteers, targeting 52 and 42 analytes using Siemens and Abbott reagents, respectively. There were no appreciable differences in RVs between the two studies in any analyte.

However, there were problems encountered in the measurement of the serum panel in the former institution. Therefore, in the interim reports on global comparison of RVs, only those from the latter institution were used.

**Malaysia:** A nationwide study was launched in July 2016, and is currently under way by setting up three central labs within Malaysia. A total of 1000 healthy volunteers are to be recruited for measurement of 50 analytes using Siemens and Abbott reagents depending on the location. Between assay-platform differences are to be harmonised based on common measurements of the serum panel by all three central labs. Therefore, RIs for analytes measured by immunoassays are to be derived for each reagent.

**The following meetings related to the above studies were held between 2014 and 2016:**

- 1) Jan 4–7, 2014: Joint data analyses on RVs from the Chinese RI study in Beijing Union Hospital, Beijing, China
- 2) Apr 13–15, 2014: Explanatory meetings on RI study planned in Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan
- 3) May 4–6, 2014: Explanatory meetings on RI study planned in Bangladesh, held at the International Center of Diarrheal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 4) May 25, 2014: Managerial meeting for the Philippine RI study in Iloilo City, Philippines.
- 5) Jun 22–24, 2014: Two C-RIDL meetings during WorldMedLab in Istanbul, Turkey. (14/27 attendees from APFCB countries)
- 6) Jul 22–24, 2014: Explanatory meeting on RI study planned in Pakistan at National University of Medical Science, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 7) Sep 8, 2014: Explanatory meeting on RI study planned by Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 8) Nov 24–25, 2014: C-RIDL/APFCB meetings during the 2014 Japan Society of Laboratory Medicine in Fukuoka, Japan (25/31 attendees from APFCB countries)
- 9) Nov 26–27, 2014: C-RIDL/APFCB seminars on statistical methods for analyzing RVs in Kumamoto, Japan (18/24 attendees from APFCB countries)
- 10) Feb 8-10, 2015: Joint work for writing reports on Chinese RI study at Beijing Union Hospital, Beijing, China.
- 11) June 21–23, 2015: Two C-RIDL meetings during EuroMedLab in Paris (9/24 attendees from APFCB countries)
- 12) July 18–21, 2016: Meeting with a research team launching the Malaysian RI study during 16<sup>th</sup> MACB conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**The interim reports on the global study were just published in two parts** based on results from 12 countries, including 5 from Asia. Part I

focused on (1) assessment of statistical methods which are most suitable for the harmonised implementation of the RI study and (2) exploration of between-country differences in RVs after alignment of them based on the panel test results. For the latter aspect, it is notable that RVs of many analytes (Albumin, Creatinine, uric acid, TG, AST, ALT, etc) showed no differences among the Asian countries. In contrast, the RVs of TP, Urea, LDL-C, HDL-C, CRP, IgG, etc. differed greatly among Asian countries. Part II of the report dealt with SVs of RVs. Alcohol, smoking, exercise-related changes in RVs were similar among the countries. However, BMI-related changes of RVs for TG, HDL-C, AST, and ALT differed greatly among Asian countries. These findings are to be confirmed with the addition of results from three more Asian countries.

**Papers published on the global study incorporating APFCB member countries** are as follows:

- 1) Ichihara K. Statistical considerations for harmonization of the global multicenter study on reference values. *Clin Chim Acta* 2014; 432: 108–118.
- 2) Yu SL, Fang HL, Han JH, Cheng XQ, Xia LY, Li SJ, Liu M, Tao ZH, Wang L, Hou LA, Qin XZ, Li PC, Zhang RP, Su W, Qiu L. The high prevalence of hypovitaminosis D in China: A multicenter vitamin D Status survey. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 2015 Feb; 94(8):e585.
- 3) Qin X, Tang G, Qiu L, Li PC, Xia L, Chen M, Tao Z, Li S, Liu M, Wang L, Gao S, Yu S, Cheng X, Han J, Hou L, Kawano R, Ichihara K. A Multicenter Reference Intervals Study for Specific Proteins in China. *Medicine* 2015; 94 (49):e2211.
- 4) Xia L, Qiu L, Cheng X, Chen M, Tao Z, Li S, Liu M, Wang L, Qin X, Han J, Li P, Hou L, Yu S, Ichihara K. Nationwide multicenter reference interval study for 28 common biochemical analytes in China. *Medicine* 2016; 95 (9): e2915.
- 5) Ichihara K, Ozarda Y, Barth JH, et al. on behalf of the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits, IFCC and Scientific Committee, APFCB. A global multicenter study on reference values: 1. Assessment of methods for derivation and comparison of reference intervals. *Clin Chim Acta* (in press) doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2016.09.016
- 6) Ichihara K, Ozarda Y, Barth JH, et al. on behalf of the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits, IFCC and Scientific Committee, APFCB. A global multicenter study on reference values: 2. Exploration of sources of variation across the countries. *Clin Chim Acta* (in press) doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2016.09.015

**The following presentations regarding the above research were made between 2014 and 2016:**

- 1) Ichihara K. “Essential Knowledge on Biological Sources of Variation for the Practice of EBLM.” *MedLab Asia Pacific 2014* in Singapore, Feb 18, 2014, Singapore (Lecture).



- 2) Shah S, Ashavaid T, Ichihara K. "Reference Intervals for routine biochemical analytes in healthy Indian volunteers: C-RIDL IFCC Initiative". IFCC WorldLab congress, 22-26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey (Oral & poster presentation).
- 3) Ichihara K. "1: Essential Statistical Methods for Sources of Variations of Laboratory Tests", "2: Multivariate Analysis for Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine.", "3: IFCC Global Study on Reference Values: its Strategy and Perspectives", Workshops organized by Pakistan Society of Clinical Pathology." July 22–24, 2014, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (24+ participants)
- 4) Ichihara K. "Global Study Reference Values." Lecture organized by Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry, Sep 8, 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (28 participants)
- 5) Ichihara K. "Biological Variations: Essential Knowledge for the Practice of EBLM." The 11<sup>th</sup> Philippine Council for Quality Assurance of Clinical Laboratory, Sep 24, 2014, Manila, Philippines. (Plenary Lecture)
- 6) Ichihara K. "IFCC C-CRIDL Global Reference Interval Study", Tuning Science into Caring 2014: Annual Asia-Pacific & Japan Scientific Symposium, Oct 20–21, 2014. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Symposium)
- 7) Ichihara K. "IFCC Global Multicenter Study on Reference Values: Major Findings and Their Clinical Implications: The Strategies and Current Status of the Study", The 61<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Laboratory Medicine. Nov 24, 2014, Fukuoka, Japan. (Symposium).
- 8) Ichihara K, Kawano R. "Hands on: Statistical Knowledge and Skills Required for Conducting a Study on Reference Values. The 61<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Laboratory Medicine. Nov 25, 2014, Fukuoka, Japan. (Hands on seminar).
- 9) Shah S, Ashavaid T, Ichihara K. "IFCC - CRIDL Worldwide Study on Reference Values: Indian reference intervals". IFCC C-STFT Standardization update and Laboratory Management Course. Dec 16, 2014, Mumbai, India (Oral presentation).
- 10) Shah S, Ashavaid T, Ichihara K.. "Indian Reference Intervals: C-RIDL IFCC Initiative" 41<sup>st</sup> National Congress of ACBI, 11-13<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Jodhpur, India (Oral presentation).
- 11) Shah S, Ashavaid T, Ichihara K. "Reference intervals for immunologically measured analytes in healthy Indian volunteers: C-RIDL IFCC Initiative" EuroMedLab Congress, 21-25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Paris, France (Poster presentation).
- 12) Ichihara K. "The Utility of Big Data in Laboratory Medicine", The 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Society of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (ASCPaLM) 2016, Mar 26, 2016, Taipei, Taiwan. (Plenary Lecture).
- 13) Ichihara K. "Essential Knowledge on Biological Sources of Variation for the Practice of EBLM." Lecture organized by Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC) and Pokhara University, Apr 10, 2016, Pokhara, Kaski Nepal (Lecture).
- 14) Mahato RV. "Characteristics of reference intervals Values: Nepal" Lecture organized by Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC) and

- Pokhara University, Apr 10, 2016, Pokhara, Kaski Nepal (Oral presentation).
- 15) Ichihara K. "Understanding the Impact of Race and Regionality on Common Tests". The 26<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Association of Clinical Biochemistry Conference. Jul 18, 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Plenary Lecture)
  - 16) Ichihara K. "Ethnic and Regional Differences in Common Laboratory Tests: Their Implications for the Globalization of Medical Practice" In APFCB sponsored symposium: Addressing pre- and post-analytical issues in developing countries". 2016 AACC Annual meeting, Aug 3, 2016 in Philadelphia, USA. (Symposium)
  - 17) Ichihara K. "Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine for Better Patient Care". 2016 Nepali Association of Clinical Chemistry General Conference, Aug 20-21, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal. (Plenary Lecture)
  - 18) Mahato RV. "Reference Intervals for common biochemical parameters in healthy adult Nepalese population aged (18-65). 2016 Nepali Association of Clinical Chemistry General Conference, Aug 20-21, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal. (Poster Presentation)
  - 19) Cheng X. Analysis of anti-Müllerian hormone levels in adult Chinese women: A multicenter reference intervals study. The 14th Asia–Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress (APFCB 2016), Nov 26-29, 2016 (oral session)
  - 20) Yu S. Hypovitaminosis D is more prevalent in younger adults than elder ones in China: vitamin D status survey based on a multicenter study. The 14th Asia–Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress (APFCB 2016), Nov 26-29, 2016 (oral session)

### **C. A new research project for building a clinical case bank**

As a new research project coordinated by Scientific Committee of APFCB, in 2015, the Chair of the Scientific Committee proposed to the Executive Board that he would like to develop a well-defined international clinical case bank for promoting the practice of evidence-based laboratory medicine (EBLM). The background of the proposal was the success of the large scale multicentre global study on RVs, which features standardised / harmonised accumulation of RVs around the world through common measurement of the serum panel. The study not only allowed derivation of RIs in harmony among the countries using up-to-date methods, but also provided detailed information on biological SVs of RVs which is useful in the practice of laboratory diagnosis. A similar multicentre study is now possible targeting well-defined diagnostic categories of diseases, rather than targeting healthy individuals, using the same strategy of the serum panel-based recalibration/alignment of laboratory test results.

As an initial attempt, hematological malignancy (multiple myeloma, malignant lymphoma), and major endocrine and collagen diseases are in target for collecting well-defined cases of each diagnostic category with recording of lab test results at onset (before therapy) together with clinical findings and prognostic information to be obtained afterwards. For standardised analytes, their test results are to be standardised/ recalibrated based on assigned values on the serum panel. For non-standardised analytes, the values measured by any assay platform will be aligned at the time of combining results from multiple institutions, again based on the panel test results. By analysing lab data from the clinical case bank in reference to clinical stages and subtype of each case, the project seeks to determine “disease-specific RIs” of major lab tests stratified by stages and subtypes of each disease.

After exploring and publishing new diagnostic knowledge for the practice of EBLM, the clinical case bank will be made available from the above-mentioned web-site for the Asian RI study (to be merged with the RVs from the global RI study).

Currently, laboratory scientists and clinicians from core medical institutions in Japan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria have expressed their willingness to take part in the study. Explanatory meetings were held in Kathmandu on Apr 4 and Aug 15, Cape Town on July 5, Dhaka on July 21-22, Niigata on Aug 24, Maebashi on Aug 25, and Ube on Sep 20. The protocol will be evaluated in details during the Scientific Committee meetings in Taipei on Nov 27–28, 2016 before launching the project from 2017.

#### **D. Scientific activities chaired and led by Dr. Ronda Greaves (Australia)**

##### **Regional project for harmonisation of mass spectrometry-based steroid assays.**

As an outcome of the 2010 conference in Hong Kong a collaborative working group was formed; **the Mass Spectrometry Harmonisation Working Group (MSHWG)**. The goal of the MSHWG is to promote harmonisation, and where practicable, standardisation of mass spectrometry methods through a consensus approach with laboratories; principally in the Asia and Pacific area. A decision was made to initially focus attention on serum steroids due to the common interest of members in this area.

In a collaborative process with interested stakeholders, a pathway to provide ongoing assessment and seek opportunities for improvement in the LC-MS/MS methods for serum steroids was established. Regional laboratories and individuals involved in this collaborative process stem from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam.

Below are the outputs for this triennial reporting period:

### **Publications**

- 1) Greaves, RF. External Quality Assurance – Its central role in supporting harmonisation in laboratory medicine. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016; (Invited Editorial, published online 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016).
- 2) Greaves RF, Jolly L, Hartmann M, Ho CS, Kam R, Joseph J, Boyder C, Wudy S. Harmonisation of Serum Dihydrotestosterone Analysis: Establishment of an External Quality Assurance Program. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016; (published online 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016).
- 3) Greaves RF, Ho CS, Hoad KE, Joseph J, McWhinney B, Gill JP, Koal T, Fouracre C, Lu Y, Cooke B, Boyder C, Pham H, Jolly L. Achievements and future directions of the APFCB mass spectrometry harmonisation project on serum testosterone. Clin Biochem Rev 2016; 37: 63-84.
- 4) Greaves RF, Pitkin J, Ho CS, Baglin J, Hunt RH, Zacharin MR. Hormone modelling in preterm neonates: Establishment of pituitary and steroid hormone reference intervals. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2015;100(3):1097-103.

### **Conference abstracts**

- 1) Greaves, RF. Mass spectrometry reference intervals for serum steroids. Symposium Abstract – 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-UEMS Congress Poland 2016, 21-24 Sept 2016. Clin Chem Lab Med 2016; 54, Special Suppl, in press
- 2) Greaves, RF, Wudy S, Hartmann M, Ho CS, Kam R, Joseph J, Boyder C, Jolly L. Harmonisation of Serum Dihydrotestosterone Analysis: Establishment of an External Quality Assurance Program. European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (ESPE). Rapid Communication Presentation. Paris France Sept 2016.
- 3) Greaves RF, Jolly L, Hartmann MF, Wudy SA. Should we target set our RCPAQAP material when there are gaps in the traceability chain ? Target assignment of 17-OHP, androstenedione, DHEA and DHT by GC-MS/MS. 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Conference 2015. Poster presentation.
- 4) Greaves RF, Pitkin J, Ho CS, Baglin J, Hunt RW, Zacharin MR. Hormone modelling in preterm neonates: establishment of serum steroid reference intervals by LC-MS/MS. 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Conference 2015. Oral communication.

- 5) Jolly L, Wudy SA, Hartmann MF, Ho CS, Kam RKT, Joseph J, Boyder C, Greaves RF. Establishment of an external quality assurance program for serum dihydrotestosterone. 53rd AACB Annual Scientific Conference 2015. Hot Topic presentation.
- 6) Greaves RF, Pitkin J, Ho CS, Baglin J, Hunt RH, Zacharin MR. Hormone modelling in preterm neonates: establishment of pituitary and steroid hormone reference intervals. Poster Abstract – IFCC EuroMedLab Paris 2015, 21-25 June 2015. Clin Chem Lab Med 2015; 53, Special Suppl, p S797. DOI 10.1515/cclm-2015-5001.
- 7) Greaves RF, Ho CS, Hoad KE, Joseph J, McWhinney B, Gill JP, Koal T, Vamathevan V, J. Murby J, Fouracre C, lu Y, Cooke B, Boyder C, Pham H, Jolly L. Standardisation of LC-MS/MS serum testosterone analysis: laboratory methods, common calibrator and initial recommendations. 52nd AACB Annual Scientific Conference 2014. Clin Biochem Rev. 2014;35(iv):S32. DOI:10.13140/2.1.4838.9447
- 8) Greaves RF, Ho CS, Hoad KE, Joseph J, McWhinney B, Gill JP, Koal T, Vamathevan V, J. Murby J, Fouracre C, lu Y, Cooke B, Boyder C, Pham H, Jolly L. Establishment Of A Common Calibrator For Mass Spectrometry Analysis Of Serum Testosterone. Oral Communications Abstracts – IFCC WorldLab Istanbul 2014 – Istanbul, 22-26 June 2014 • Clin Chem Lab Med 2014; 52, Special Suppl, pp S180. DOI 10.1515/cclm-2014-4002.

### **Interviews**

- 1) Koal T. An interview was conducted for Metabolomic news in August 2014 which included a discussion of this project. The link is - [http://www.metabonews.ca/Aug2014/MetaboNews\\_Aug2014.htm#MetaboInterviews](http://www.metabonews.ca/Aug2014/MetaboNews_Aug2014.htm#MetaboInterviews)
- 2) Greaves R. Television interview for Vietnam News Ho Chi Minh City - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### **Collaborations & Acknowledgements**

- 1) All laboratories and industry partners involved in the efforts of harmonisation
- 2) Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
- 3) Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action BM 1303 “DSDnet” (<http://www.dsdnet.eu/>) working group 3 “Harmonisation of Laboratory Assessment”
- 4) National Measurement Institute of Australia
- 5) Royal College of Pathologist of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP)
- 6) Siemens Healthineers Singapore

**E. APFCB / WASPaLM Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)  
Chair: Associate Prof Dr Graham Jones (Australia)**

This project was proposed by Dr Graham Jones in 2013 and accepted by the APFCB EB at that time. The project was aimed at emphasising the following points:

1. Quality, traceable assays for creatinine, urine albumin, and possibly cystatin C
2. Standardise reporting (units, eGFR formula, Reference Intervals, decision points)
3. Education of users
4. Produce the following guidelines: Who and when to test, which tests to use, how to interpret, how to manage
5. Reporting issues

It was proposed to include AFCKDI (Asian Forum of Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative) to give three contributing parties to the project: APFCB, WASPaLM and AFCKDI.

Dr Jones has spoken on CKD as the APFCB Travelling Lecturer and AACB Roman Lecturer (with additional financial support from host organisations; St Vincent's Hospital Sydney; and from Roche Diagnostics for Vietnam) in India, Vietnam, China, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Mexico (WASPaLM World Congress November 2015). Additionally, he has spoken at the Vietnam Association of Urology and Nephrology (VUNA) on the topic and will be speaking at the APFCB Congress in Taipei as a plenary lecturer.

A meeting is planned for interested members of APFCB organisations to be held at Taiwan during the APFCB meeting.

The following personnel were proposed for the task force (TF):

1. Chair: Dr Graham Jones (APFCB)
2. Vice Chair: Dr Leslie Lai (WASPaLM)
3. Vice Chair: Dr Tsukamoto (or other nominee) (AFCKDI)
4. Secretary: Dr Ronda Greaves (APFCB)
5. Members: Dr Sunil Sethi (Singapore), Dr Praveen Sharma (India)

The aim is to model the TF on the IFCC TF-CKD. This TF consists of a number of members, and also corresponding members. All members of either class are nominated by their parent professional organisation and

are invited to fully participate in the activities of the TF. The IFCC-TF is basing current activities on supporting national organisations in working with national nephrology organisations, particularly with regard to consideration of the KDIGO Guidelines on diagnosis of CKD.

**11. Communications Committee (C-Comm)**  
**Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma (India)**

<b>Committee members</b>	
Chair	Praveen Sharma (India)
Ex-officio	Leslie Lai
Secretary	MVR Reddy (India)
Members	Hwan Sub Lim (Korea)
	Marivic Baniqued (Philippines)
<b>Corresponding members</b>	
AACB (Australasia)	Sandra Klingberg
CSLM (China)	Guan Ming
CACLM (China) - Affiliate member	Mingting Peng
HKSCC (Hong Kong)	Karen KT Law
IACC (Indonesia)	Krist Haksa
JSCC (Japan)	Hitoshi Chiba
MAML (Macau-China) - Affiliate member	Terry Wan Chi Chung
NAMLS (Nepal)	Pramod Prasat Raut
PSCP (Pakistan)	Samina Ghayur
SACB (Singapore)	Sharon Saw

ACBSL (Sri Lanka)	BKTP Dayanath
CACB (Taiwan)	Ya-Wen Chang
TACB (Thailand)	Busaba Matrakool
VACB (Vietnam)	Hoang Thu Ha

The C-Comm has been actively promoting the activities of APFCB at national level with the member societies as well as at international level. The various activities of member societies are disseminated through the APFCB website.

#### **A. APFCB News**

One of the major activities of C-Comm has been the regular publication of APFCB news. The publishing team comprises:

Editor-in-Chief	Praveen Sharma
General and Case Studies Editors	Leslie Charles Lai
General and Case Studies Editors	Tester Ashavaid
General and Case Studies Editors	Aysha Habib
Web Editor	MVR Reddy
Assistant Editor	Purvi Purohit

The APFCB e-news is available online, free of charge for all and this has ensured wide reach of the APFCB e-News to all the members at no additional cost. It covers:

- APFCB activities
- Activities of member societies
- Features (including special mention of any outstanding work)
- Scientific article by members
- Scientific articles by corporate members

The APFCB e-News was published annually from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, it was decided by the EB that the APFCB e-News shall be published twice in a year as Issue -1 and 2 in an effort to cover more regional activities and provide more up-to-date news. The APFCB e-News 2016 (Issue-1) is already online covering the activities of member societies in the first half of this year.

#### **B. APFCB Website**

The Chair of the Communications Committee was charged with the responsibility of launching the APFCB website and its coordination, maintenance and improvement ([www.apfcb.org](http://www.apfcb.org)). Dr MVR Reddy (India)



has been assigned the responsibility of being the web editor. The site was successfully launched on 1 Nov 2011. Since then, it is regularly updated with comprehensive information on the organisation and activities of APFCB and its member societies. Access is made available through the website to the ongoing Scientific, Education and Laboratory Management Committee programmes of APFCB as well as the activities of the Communications and Congress Committee.

The APFCB website hosted the first ever live broadcasting of the Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course in the year 2015 which was viewed by more than 200 participants.

There is also a photo gallery of relevant events. The website is also a source of information on the APFCB Congress and regional meetings, APFCB Travelling Lecturer programme and future events. The APFCB e-News and annual reports are conveniently published online on this platform, making them readily available to all members. The website also gives access to the APFCB webinars.

### C. Public Relations

A power point presentation on the APFCB, its members and its activities was developed by Mr Martin Fuhrer, Corporate Representative to the EB and is now being updated regularly by the new Corporate member, Dr Alexander Wong since Martin Fuhrer's resignation from Siemens. This power point presentation is ready for use at member society conferences and at regional and international meetings to promote the APFCB.

## 12. Congress and Conferences Committee (C-CC)

**Chair: Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)**

<b>Committee members</b>	
Chair	Joseph Lopez
Ex-officio	Leslie Lai
Secretary	Peter Graham
Members	Yap Tjin Shing
	Joycelynn Aman
<b>Corresponding members</b>	
CSLM (China)	Cui Wei
CACLM (China) - Affiliate member	Chuanbao Zhang

HKSCC (Hong Kong)	Cybil TY Wong
ACBI (India)	Rajiv R Sinha
AMBI (India)	Animesh Bordoloi
IACC (Indonesia)	Eric Martoyo
JSCC (Japan)	Yuzo Kayamori
KSCC (Korea)	Sung Eun Cho
MAML (Macau-China) - Affiliate member	Antonio Joaquim Noronha
MACB (Malaysia)	Chen Bee Chin
NAMLS (Nepal)	Mithlesh Raut
PSCP (Pakistan)	Khalil-ur-rehman
SACB (Singapore)	Sharon Saw
ACBSL (Sri Lanka)	Mrs Sriyani Amarasinghe
TACB (Thailand)	Phanee Pidetcha
VACB (Vietnam)	Tran Hoai Nam

### **Background**

The APFCB C-CC began its existence as the Congress Committee which was a standing committee of the APFCB. It was responsible to the APFCB Council. The role of the Congress Committee was to provide assistance with the organisation and the scientific programme of the Asian and Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry or APCCB, as the APFCB Congress was then called.

With the Strategic Plan of 2010 that was approved by the APFCB Council at its meeting in Seoul, the Congress Committee became the APFCB C-CC. The Plan stated that the membership would consist of a Chair appointed by the APFCB Executive Board, a Secretary and one other member. The APFCB President would be an *ex-officio* member.

The functions of the C-CC are as follows:

- 1) Role in APFCB Congresses
  - a) Oversee the organisation of the APFCB Congress.
  - b) Help raise sponsorship for meetings.

- c) Appoint members to be on the Scientific Committee of the APFCB Congress to ensure the international nature of the scientific content.
- 2) Specialty meetings  
To organise one specialty meeting/workshop each year, as proposed by other Committees and conducted in conjunction with committees

Prior to the 2010 Strategic Plan, the Immediate Past President was the *ex-officio* Chair of the Congress Committee. However, the Strategic Plan stated that the Chair of C-CC was to be appointed by EB, as with other standing Committee Chairs.

## **ACTIVITIES 2014-2016**

### **A. 14<sup>th</sup> APFCB Congress, Taipei, 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

The C-CC worked closely with Congress Organising Committee (COC) of the 14<sup>th</sup> APFCB Congress and especially with the Chair, Professor Woei-Hong Fang. The COC furnished regular reports with budget and details of the progress of preparation. Reports were also submitted to the IFCC C-CC through Mr Joe Lopez who is a member of this committee as well.

The Chair and APFCB President met with the COC in Taipei on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 to discuss the progress of preparations. The meeting was attended by Professor Fang, Professor Shu-Chu Shiesh, Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee and other colleagues from the COC. Also present were representatives from the professional conference organiser (PCO). Professor Fang presented the progress report while Professor Shiesh presented the draft scientific programme. A report of the visit was prepared by Joe Lopez and submitted to the Executive Board and the C-CC.

### **B. Amendments to the APFCB Congress Guidelines**

The present APFCB Congress guidelines were prepared by Past President Dr. Tan It Koon when he was Chairman of the APFCB Congress Committee from 1988-1991 and have been used until the present. Since these guidelines are more than 25 years old, the current C-CC Chair has undertaken an extensive revision of these guidelines.

The proposed revised guidelines are more comprehensive and take into account the changes that have been approved by Council over the past several years. The revised guidelines were approved by the C-CC and then by the EB in early 2016. It was subsequently sent to Council for comment. The final draft of the revised guidelines will be presented to the Council Meeting for approval, taking into account issues relating to the code for ethical business practices that came up in the IFCC in the second half of 2016.

### **C. Auspices**

One of the functions of the APFCB C-CC is the award of auspices of the APFCB for scientific meetings. The provision of auspices is mutually beneficial: the APFCB lends its prestige to a meeting which should help it attract greater participation and in return the APFCB benefits from greater name recognition among the participating laboratory scientists.

All applications for APFCB auspices are vetted by the C-CC and treated on a case-by-case basis. The C-CC is careful to award auspices only to scientific meetings that are organised by learned bodies and vendors such as its corporate members where the content is of educational value and non-commercial in nature. Meetings by vendors that purely promote their products or those organised for profit by individuals or commercial bodies will receive auspices only in exceptional cases. This policy was approved by the EB at its meeting in Jakarta in February 2016 and a policy statement written Joe Lopez on this was submitted to the APFCB eNews for publication.

During the 2014-2016 period APFCB auspices was provided for the following meetings:

- 1) 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Anticancer Research, Sinthonia, Halkidiki, Greece, 6 to 10 October 2014
- 2) AACB Annual Scientific Conference, Adelaide, Australia, 27-29 October 2014
- 3) Chemical Pathology Course, 2014, 10th June 2014 at Hanoi and 14th June 2014 at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 4) EFLM-IFCC EuroMedLab, Paris, 21-25 June 2015
- 5) WASPaLM Congress, Cancun, Mexico, 18-21 November 2015
- 6) College of Chemical Pathologists, Sri Lanka, Annual Academic Session, 3-5 March 2016
- 7) The Korean Society for Laboratory Medicine, 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Clinical Laboratory Automation (Cherry Blossom Symposium 2016), Seoul, South Korea, 20–22 April 2016
- 8) Association of Practicing Pathologists, India, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, 11-12 June 2016
- 9) Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC), Annual Conference, 20-21 August 2016
- 10) AACB-AIMS Combined Scientific Meeting and Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Satellite Meeting, 13-15 September 2016
- 11) The Korean Society for Laboratory Medicine for LMCE 2016 (Laboratory Medicine Congress & Exhibition) & KSLM 57th Annual Meeting, 26–28 October 2016
- 12) Roche Efficiency Days (RED) 2016, Beijing 5-6 December 2016
- 13) EuroMedLab, Athens, Greece 11-15 June 2017
- 14) IFCC WorldLab, Durban, South Africa, 22-25 October 2017.

The C-CC declined to provide auspices to a meeting on metabolomics as it appeared to be organised by a professional conference organiser and thus deemed to be a “for profit” meeting.

**D. Resolution on Compliance with Codes of Ethical Business Practice**

Various national and international agencies have in recent years established codes of ethical business practices. Ethical business practices are also applicable to *in vitro* diagnostics (IVD) industry, in particular for third party educational event organisers such as the IFCC and national societies. The IFCC has decided in principle to endorse these codes of ethical business practices for all educational events developed and/or supported by the IFCC. The IFCC has endorsed the “MedTech Europe Code of Ethical Business Practice”. The code is potentially applicable to the APFCB Congresses as well as it affects potential sponsors. A resolution for the APFCB as well to endorse the “MedTech Europe Code of Ethical Business Practice” will be tabled at the Council Meeting.

**13. Corporate Member’s Report by the Corporate Representative, Dr Alexander Wong (Siemens Healthineers)**

**Summary of Corporate Membership**

<b>Year</b>	<b>New Corporate Members Added</b>	<b>Corporate Members Rescinded</b>
2014	Nil	Nil
2015	Wondfo Biotech SNIBE Diagnostics	Nil
2016	Nil	PM Separations

There were two new Corporate members in 2015, Wondfo Biotech and SNIBE Diagnostics. Unfortunately, PM Separations had decided to rescind their membership in 2016. The Corporate Representative had followed up with Mr Michael Rennie of PM Separations who shared that the main reason was that of declining resources and PM Separations took the decision to support two other regional associations that were closer to their core business needs.

The Corporate Representative elected to serve on the next Executive Board, term commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, should continue to seek additional membership while re-emphasising the benefits of the APFCB Corporate Membership to current Corporate Members.

## **A. Corporate Members Survey (conducted in 2015)**

A Corporate Members Survey was conducted on behalf of the Executive Board. The objectives were to better understand the needs of Corporate members, and find greater alignment of activities between the members and APFCB committees. A total of 7 responses were received, representing the major vendors. The survey concludes the following observations on corporate member priorities:

### **1) Promoting the Value of IVD**

From a broader market perspective, pricing is taking a greater precedence over quality and clinical value, with budget cuts hitting hard on visible targets such as the LMD. Overall, Corporate members would like to see the APFCB forge collaborations with regional medical societies in order to promote the value of IVD, and increase the standing of laboratory medicine.

### **2) Improving the Quality of Laboratory Medicine**

Corporate members would like to see greater leadership from APFCB to improve the quality of laboratory medicine. The current mode of engagement is through jointly organised educational workshops on topics such as pre-analytical / QC / LEAN / Six-Sigma. Some members have expressed a willingness to open up such programmes to other Corporate members, although others prefer to keep this as a value-adding exercise for their own customers. There may be a need for C-ELM to establish a set curriculum of topics that are adaptable to individual Corporate members' needs.

### **3) Disease State Education and Scientific Studies**

Disease state education and specialty meetings may be tied in with a travel lectureship, based on Corporate members' needs. Corporate members would like to seek greater transparency with proposed studies before being able to commit to these activities. Some areas of interests include reference range values for Asia-Pacific populations, and health economic studies / patient-related outcomes as a means to promote the overall value of IVD.

### **4) Cost-Effective Opportunities for Branding and Promotion**

Most Corporate members are open to alternative forms of branding and marketing, e.g. e-newsletters, APFCB website and webinars, as long as they are cost-effective.

## **B. APFCB-SACB-Siemens Specialty Meeting on QC Management**

Date: 15 Jul 2016 (Friday), 1200 – 1715hrs

Venue: Mandarin Orchard Singapore

A specialty meeting was held in Singapore which saw the involvement of multiple Corporate members in addition to the APFCB and SACB. The topic was around “QC Management”, where participants learnt about the fundamentals of QC Management and the tools available to aid in this process. Insights were also shared on the available External Quality Assurance Programmes in the market. A/Prof Sunil Sethi acted in his capacity as APFCB Vice-President as well as SACB President to grace the event with a Welcome Speech to over 120 laboratory participants.

Dr. Tony Badrick, Chief Executive Officer RCPAQAP and Chair of C-ELM spoke on topics relating to QC Fundamentals and Rules, offering a comprehensive overview of QC know-how. This was followed by Ms. Vani Sugumaran, Group Product Marketing Manager, Lab Segment, Bio-Rad. Ms. Vani shared with the participants on Bio-Rad Data Management Solutions which can aid laboratories in the ISO 15189 accreditation for quality assurance.

Siemens Centralink Data Management System was shared right after by Ms. Tan Ai Lee, Regional Marketing Manager (Automation System & Solution), ASEAN. The Centralink Data Management System acted as a middleware solution to manage patient results and daily QC management. It also works in sync with the Bio-Rad Data Management Solution in the aspects of real-time QC data transmission for peer group comparison, thereby defining the collaboration between Siemens Healthineers and Bio-Rad.

Mr Poh Wee Koh, Regional Product Manager (Point-of-Care), ASEAN, wrapped up the afternoon with a discussion around how the requirements of Quality Management at a Point-of-Care setting. It was an afternoon of valuable knowledge and experience sharing from the esteemed speakers. More importantly, it was also a wonderful event for networking amongst SACB laboratory participants and APFCB Corporate Members.

## **C. IFCC-APFCB-Abbott “Turning Science into Caring” Scientific Symposia (TSIC Scientific Symposia)**

### **Background**

The purpose of the annual TSIC meetings in the Asia-Pacific region is to bring laboratory and other healthcare professionals together to exchange information on trends in laboratory medicine and to elevate the standard of care. The APFCB initially signed an agreement with Abbott Laboratories

on 22 July 2013 while the IFCC had signed a similar agreement with Abbott Laboratories earlier. The IFCC and APFCB are both actively involved with Abbott Laboratories in determining the scientific content and speakers for the annual TSIC Scientific Symposium. The APFCB signed an amendment to this agreement in May 2016 whereby the agreement period was extended to eight years from July 2013. The TSIC Scientific Symposium will now be held in the Asia-Pacific region once every two years instead of annually. Hence, there the TSIC Scientific Symposium will not be held in 2016.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual TSIC Scientific Symposium** **Theme: The Value of In Vitro Diagnostics (IVD)**

Date: 19 – 21 October 2014  
Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Abbott Diagnostics Division was represented by Dr Peng Yin, IFCC represented by Professor Howard Morris and APFCB represented by Professor Leslie Lai. The conference programme was developed with considerable input by each representative and was of an exceptional quality addressing the challenges to the current practice of laboratory medicine including the role of laboratory medicine in healthcare delivery; the public perception of laboratory medicine and interaction with the broader community as well as specific examples of laboratory medicine playing a key role in patient diagnosis and monitoring. Workshops addressed recent developments in laboratory medicine with regard to patient result interpretation and novel tests. Some 400 registrants attended the conference held in the Sheraton Saigon Hotel and Towers which provided an excellent venue for the conference and accommodation.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual TSIC Scientific Symposium**

Date: 2 – 3 December 2015  
Venue: Bali, Indonesia

Abbott Diagnostics Division was represented by Dr Agim Beshiri, IFCC represented by Professor Maurizio Ferrari and APFCB represented by Dr Elizabeth Frank.

The scientific programme spanned 2 days, and was supported by 21 Global speakers and 182 guests from around the Asia-Pacific region. IFCC President Prof Maurizio Ferrari delivered the keynote presentation on P4 Medicine: Predictive, Preventive, Personalised and Participatory. The integration of the wealth of genomic data and translation of new technologies into personalised medicine is a huge challenge aimed at



improved clinical care. APFCB's Dr Elizabeth Frank delivered the first plenary presentation on the current guidelines from the American and Canadian Diabetes Association recommending the use of HbA1c testing in the management and diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus, and the challenges facing adoption of HbA1c testing.

This TSIC introduced clinical workshops, aiming to bridge the gap between the clinicians and the laboratorians. Dr Martin Than and Dr Frederick Korley spoke on applications of hsTnl in the management of acute cardiac patients in the Cardiac Workshop. In the Emergency Medicine Workshop, Dr Flett discussed the ordering and interpretations of common *STAT* biomarkers requested by the ED. Dr Brealey followed up on his plenary presentation on sepsis and discussed the results from the European RADICAL clinical trial with the IRIDICA platform, a new rapid PCR ESI-MS method of pathogen identification, in a cohort of critically ill adults. Other Scientific Workshops spanned topics in Clinical Chemistry, Oncology, Women's Health and Hematology.

#### **D. APFCB-Beckman Coulter Scientific Symposia**

Date: 8 – 14 October 2015

Venue: Ho Chi Minh (8 Oct 2015), Jakarta (10 Oct 2015) and Bangkok (14 Oct 2015)

The APFCB-Beckman Coulter Symposia was an educational series proposed by Beckman for the purpose of raising the standard of laboratory medicine within the region. Beckman had indicated that they were prepared to organise, fund and promote the series of symposia in their selected cities – Ho Chi Minh (8 Oct 2015), Jakarta (10 Oct 2015) and Bangkok (14 Oct 2015).

Planning for the entire event began in May 2015. Ms Ng Siew Bee from Beckman was the coordinator of the activities and had discussions with A/Prof Sunil Sethi, representing the APFCB, Beckman Headquarters, particularly Dr Jack Zakowski, Director, Scientific Affairs and Professional Relations at Beckman Coulter. Dr Zakowski also holds appointments within the Board of Directors at Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and College of American Pathologists (CAP). Dr Zakowski had agreed to participate in all three of the APFCB –BC Symposia as a subject expert in the area of laboratory standards, accreditation and the clinical value of specific biomarkers.

The series of APFCB-BC Symposia were typically held in hotels within the city centre and the programme would usually be a one-day activity with a series of talks from local experts, APFCB representative and BC expert. Planning for the events was primarily under the care of the BC team and it

was a good experience as the BC team, particularly Siew Bee, was enthusiastic and professional in the administrative planning for the events. All details were meticulously planned and the local distributors in each of the cities were enrolled to manage the event on the ground. Administrative arrangements including travel, transportation, accommodation and hospitality were all very well taken care off.

The events were generally well received and participation rates were between 70 -150 participants, who were a mix of laboratory professional and technical staff as well as medical staff. The audience was generally well engaged and there were lively Q&A sessions and panel discussions as part of the planned activities. Each event was opened with formal introductions by the BC senior management team, followed by A/Prof Sunil Sethi representing the APFCB. A few minutes were spent promoting the APFCB by introducing our executive board and committees with the use of our APFCB slide deck.

Overall, the scientific content was tailored, in some ways to the needs and interests of the local laboratories, which helped maintain the interest. There was also a small exhibition area which featured BC equipment. This gave the event a rather nice conference with exhibition atmosphere.

*Report prepared by Leslie Lai (President), Sunil Sethi (Vice President), Endang Hoyaranda (Secretary), Alexander Wong (Corporate Representative), Tony Badrick (Chair C-ELM), Kiyoshi Ichihara (Chair C-Sci), Praveen Sharma (Chair C-Comm), Joseph Lopez (Immediate Past President and Chair C-CC), Ronda Greaves (Chair of Working Groups under C-Sci and C-ELM)) and Graham Jones (Chair of Task Force on CKD).*