

On May, 21st 2023, the Presidents of BCLF and IFCC, on behalf of their representative members and in accordance with the constitution and relevant rules of the organizations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in various areas to improve the development of laboratory medicine in research, development and innovation, and in the interest of better responding to and solving health issues of global concern.



Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF)
And
The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)

1. Parties and Purpose

The Parties

1.1 The Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (hereafter BCLF) is a regional organization including all Balkan countries, i.e., Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, that are also EFLM and IFCC members. As a regional organization BCLF gathers all clinical chemists from the Balkan region with the aim of improving clinical laboratory practice in each of the Balkan countries, as a result of new medical discoveries, new technologies, and changes in the organization and in the process of laboratory support of clinical activities.

1.2 The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (hereafter IFCC) is a global body that sets and promotes high standards of practice in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. This role includes promoting worldwide the important impact of laboratory medicine in public health and patient care and high-quality operation and accreditation of medical laboratories around the world.

The Purpose

1.3 The President of BCLF and the President of IFCC, on behalf of their respective members and in accordance with the constitution and relevant rules of the organizations, agree upon the following Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in various areas to improve the development of laboratory medicine in research, development and innovation, and in the interest of better responding to and solving health issues of global concern. The agreement aims to combine the experience and enhance the contribution of science to global health and sustainable development, to facilitate mobilization of scientific expertise and to strengthen science-policy interfaces relevant to health. BCLF and IFCC accept the provisions of this document.

2. Areas of Cooperation

2.1 The Parties agree to cooperate in defined projects that will underpin the development of laboratory medicine through implementation of joint projects on issues of common concern, exchanging knowledge and results; organizing scientific and technological seminars, symposia and other meetings of mutual interest; collaboration through specialist training and practice, continuing medical education, and continuing professional development, with the goal of identifying future areas for cooperation. Each project will have specific Terms of Reference that include the responsibility assigned to BCLF and IFCC.

2.2 Collaborative projects may include, but not be restricted to

- Core training programme support for early career and senior medical technologists and laboratory scientists through the IFCC Professional Exchange Program and IFCC Scholarships for Young Scientists.
- Management and leadership training support for laboratory directors through joint workshops and online or onsite training programs.
- Training in quality management and preparation for medical laboratory accreditation.
- Mentoring of senior laboratory medicine specialists who are working towards medical laboratory accreditation through development of a joint mentorship program.
- Sharing of freely available distance learning programmes.
- Development and promotion of national reference laboratories.
- Links between websites and promotion of each other's conferences and events.
- Support for mutually agreed specific projects regionally and internationally.
- Promoting the inclusion of early career researchers on conference organising committees and when convening panel sessions.
- Actively encouraging reporting on how groups and committees are supporting early career researchers, and sharing resources that help to foster best practices in this area.

3. Implementation

3.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on the last date of the signature by the President of BCLF and the President of IFCC and will remain in force until terminated in accordance with the provisions defined below.

3.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed by each of the Parties every three years.

4. Amendments

4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by a written agreement between the Parties.

5. Termination

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by BCLF and/or IFCC upon six months written notice of such intention.

6. Signatures

BCLF President - Professor Dobrin A. Svinarov

Date: 21 May 2023

IFCC President - Professor Khosrow Adeli

Date:

21 May 2023

