GENERAL MEETING

EFLM held its Eight General Meeting (GM) during the Euromedlab in Paris (France) on Sunday 21 June 2015. During the GM EFLM President, Mauro Panteghini (MP), provided an overview of the recent EFLM activities since the last GM held in Liverpool. The importance of the EFLM’s ongoing program supporting the presence of Executive Board (EB) members at NSs national congresses was emphasized as an excellent opportunity for EFLM to strengthen its connections with EFLM NSs. MP briefly reported on the outcome of the 1st EFLM Strategic conference held in Milan, 24-25 November 2014, and the subsequent formation of the Task Force on Performance Specifications in Laboratory Medicine and Task and related Finish Working Groups.

The role of young scientists in EFLM was promoted by opening full member positions in EFLM working groups (WG) and granting bursaries to support their attendance at EFLM meetings. For instance, EFLM had received 76 applications for bursaries for the Euromedlab 2015 congress, out of which 10 best applicants were granted EFLM bursaries. MP also provided an overview of the progress of the 2014-2015 EFLM Strategic Plan. At the end of his presentation, MP thanked all EFLM officers for their hard work.

Huib Storm (HS), EFLM Treasurer, gave financial report. Audit of the EFLM financial matters had been done in accordance with GAAP (General Accountant Audit principles). Two subsequent years were audited (2013 and 2014) by the certified auditor who checked whether the financial operations were in accordance with the existing legal rules and principles. The audit was successful and EFLM obtained a certificate proving that EFLM accounts were maintained fully in accordance with the Belgian law and GAAP. HS presented the balance sheets for 2013 and 2014 and explained each balance line. EFLM GM approved the balance sheet for 2013 and 2014 and the internal budget for 2014 and 2015.

During the GM elections were held and following EB members were elected:

- Mauro Panteghini re-elected as EFLM President
- Sverre Sandberg re-elected as EFLM Vice President
- Huib Storm elected for a second two-year term as EFLM Treasurer
- Ana-Maria Simundic elected for a second two-year term as EFLM Secretary
- Grazyna Sypniewska and Tomas Zima elected as Members-at-Large

The next GM will be held in Madrid in conjunction with the IFCC General Conference on 21st of March, 2016.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Through the EFLM program entitled EFLM Presence at NS meetings, during 2015 EB members participated in three EFLM NS meetings hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Croatia.

EB has recently launched a call for nominations for the EFLM President and EFLM Vice President. Voting for these two EB positions shall take place in Madrid at the ninth GM.

EFLM EB has discussed on several occasions the IFCC proposal on the selection of regional representatives in the IFCC EB. EFLM EB in principle believes that an individual representing a Region should be selected and participate in the policies and actions of a Region, and should be elected within that Region using the Region agreed electoral process. This ensures a meaningful contextual representation of the Regional EB at the IFCC EB.
COMMITTEES

Committee – Communication (C-C)
A major effort of C-C during 2015 was dedicated to a re-arrangement of the EFLM website, where a great care was devoted to improve the document retrieval in the EFLM publication list and to a better organization of the educational material. Following the publication of the EFLM corporate policy, an agreement has been reached with a number of IVD companies to host in the EFLM website their logo and some news. To improve the services for the Member Societies, the Table of Content of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) is regularly sent through the EFLM mass mailing list that includes now more than 4000 addresses. To increase the presence of EFLM within the professional community, a Linkedin group was created to promote discussions on relevant themes.

Committee – Education and Training (C-ET)
EFLM has entitled C-ET to establish the EFLM continuing professional development (CPD) crediting system. To perform this task EFLM has decided to establish a specific Task and Finish group. C-ET has been involved in the organization of 15th EFLM Postgraduate Course, 11th Symposium of Balkan region and in selection of the venues of 5th EFLM-UEMS Congress and 22nd EuroMedLab. WG-Distance education (WG-DE) produced five e-seminars in 2015.

Committee – Profession (C-P) and EC4 Foundation
Version 5 of the EC4 Syllabus for education and training of specialists in laboratory medicine across the EU community has reached its penultimate draft for circulation to EFLM EB and EC4 representatives early in 2016. Having accomplished this remit and the production of a Common Training Framework (CTF), the C-P WG on Syllabus/CTF was dissolved at the end of 2015.

WG on Recognition of professional qualifications continued its lobbying of the EU Commission for recognition of specialists in laboratory medicine under the EU Directive 2013/55/EU. EFLM and EC4 agreed to continue their subscriptions to CEPLIS (Council for the Liberal Professions in the EU) during 2016 as well as EU Commission lobbying activities on behalf of the profession. This second WG was also dissolved at the end of 2015, but its key leads has been invited to join an expanded C-P for 2016.

Concern was expressed at C-P and EC4 meetings in 2015 of the diminishing infrastructure around EC4 as more and more Europe-wide leadership for laboratory medicine transfers to EFLM. This was noted to be manifested through decreasing numbers of individuals seeking to join the EC4 Register as specialists in laboratory medicine and decreasing numbers of “hits” on an out-of-date EC4 web site. There is broad agreement that the leadership for achieving recognition of specialists through presentation of a CTF supported by 10 EU member states should now come from EFLM. C-P chair was requested to seek to dissolve the current EC4 Foundation and create an EFLM Foundation by end 2016 to which the necessary human, capital and organizational resources could be dedicated to achieve recognition of specialists in laboratory medicine through a register across the EU.

Committee – Quality and Regulations (C-QR)
C-QR performed a survey on the accreditation status in the different European countries. C-QR members published a paper on flexible scope approach for accreditation. At the end of 2015, C-QR was restructured by closing the WG-IVD and adding one WG-IVD member into the WG-A/ISO.

Committee – Science (C-S)
The nine WGs under this C (Biological Variation, Cardiac Markers, Guidelines, Harmonization of the Total Testing Process, Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine, Personalized Laboratory Medicine, Postanalytical Phase, Preanalytical Phase and Test Evaluation) and the three Task and Finish Groups (Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidemia, Critical Results and Standardization of the Color Coding for Blood Collection Closures) constitute the backbone and substance of the C-S. All groups have been active in pursuing their terms of reference, by performing studies, publishing original research reports, reviews and position papers. Members of the groups have also lectured at numerous international conferences and courses.
MEETINGS
EFLM has organized five meetings during 2015:
1. 3rd EFLM-BD Conference on Preanalytical Phase, 20-21 March, 2015, Porto (Portugal)
2. EFLM Symposium on Education in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 24-26 April, 2015, Prague (Czech Republic)
3. 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, 14-15 May 2015; Belgrade (Serbia)
4. EFLM Symposium Cutting Edge of Laboratory Management in Europe (CELME), 1-2 October 2015, Prague (Czech Republic)
5. 15th EFLM Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 24-25 October, 2015, Zagreb (Croatia)

PUBLICATIONS

Mauro Panteghini
EFLM President