



ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Annual Report for 2014

1. APFCB matters

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. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
7. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
8. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)
9. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)
10. Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)
11. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)
12. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists (SACB)
13. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL)
14. Chinese Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taiwan (CACB)
15. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemists (TACB)
16. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

Corporate Members

1. Abbott Diagnostics
2. BD Diagnostics
3. Beckman Coulter
4. Bio-Rad
5. Diasorin Ltd
6. Diasys Diagnostic Systems, GmbH
7. Koprana Laboratories Ltd
8. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
9. PM Separations
10. Randox Laboratories
11. Roche Diagnostics
12. Sekisui Chemical Co
13. Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co Ltd
14. Siemens
15. Sukraa Software Solution Pvt Ltd
16. Sysmex

17. Technidata Medical Software

Affiliate Members

1. Chinese Association of Clinical Laboratory Management (CACLM)
2. Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
3. Macao Laboratory Medicine Association (MLMA)
4. Mongolian Association of Health Laboratorians (MAHL)

Office Bearers (1 January 2014 till 31 December 2016)

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)

Chairs of Committees

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)

Executive Board meeting

The Executive Board held a meeting on 1st December 2014 during the Golden Anniversary Celebrations and 50th Annual Convention of PAMET in Manila, Philippines.

Corporate Members

Agappe Diagnostics Ltd informed the APFCB in November 2014 that it no longer wished to be a member of the APFCB.

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

An MoU between APFCB and WASPaLM was signed on 27 August 2014 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 MichaelOoellerich (WASPalm Director for Europe), Prof Stewart Bryant (WASPalm Director for Australasia) , Prof Masami Murakami (WASPalm President-Elect).

Golden Jubilee Celebration

PAMET celebrated their Golden Anniversary and 50th Annual Convention from 1st to 3rd 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 1st 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. APFCB ACTIVITIES

I. APFCB Education and Laboratory Management Committee (C-ELM)

Chair: Associate Prof Tony Badrick (Australia)

1. APFCB Travelling Lectureship

The APFCB TL for 2013/14 is Associate Prof Sunil Sethi of Singapore. Prof Sethi gave lectures on Managing Laboratory Informatics, Middleware and Process Control at the MACB Annual Scientific Meeting in June 2013, in Vietnam in September 2013, during the APFCB Congress in Bali in October 2013, in Hong Kong at the HKSCC

13th ASM 11 January 2014; in Taipei during the CACB ASM 15 March 2014; in Australia at the AACB 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide 27 October 2014.

2. IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer

Prof Howard Morris, (Vice President of IFCC) of the University of South Australia and South Australia Pathology has been nominated to be the IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer for 2015/2016. His topic is Vitamin D and Bone Metabolism.

3. Clinical Comments Interpretation Program

The clinical comments interpretation program continues with a case every 4-6 weeks being sent to participants. The response varies between 30-70 but there is strong support from a core of participants. A total of seven (7) cases were sent to participants in 2014.

4. Webpage

The Webpage is being populated with QA/QC material with support from Randox. It is hoped that this content will attract members to the website.

5. Pre-analytical Working Group

The APFCB Pre-analytical Working Group has been formed with the following terms of reference:

- i. To promote the importance of the quality of the pre-analytical phase of laboratory medicine
- ii. To define the best practices and provide recommendations for some critical activities in the pre-analytical phase
- iii. To design and validate questionnaires for assessing the current practices in pre-analytical variables and to conduct surveys in the Asia-Pacific region on pre-analytical practices.
- iv. Organise symposia, workshops, webinars or training courses on pre-analytical phase issues
- v. Work with Pre-analytical WG of EFLM
- vi. Build guidelines for Pre-analytical phase

Deliverables

- i. Validated questionnaires for assessing the key challenges that laboratories face in managing the pre-analytical phase.
- ii. Surveys to assess the current pre-analytical challenges in laboratories and their importance in order to define how best the WG can support laboratories in the Asia Pacific region.
- iii. Solutions/guidance for laboratories to address the top pre-analytical challenges.

iv. Active webpage with pre-analytical tools

6. APFCB Scholarships

Four APFCB-Abbott scholarships of USD 2,000 each were awarded for participation in the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Istanbul, 22 till 26 June 2014. All four recipients had abstracts accepted for presentation at the IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul. Two APFCB-AACB scholarships of SGD 2,000 each were awarded to participate in the AACB Congress in Adelaide, Australia, 27 till 29 October 2014 although one scholarship was subsequently withdrawn as the recipient could not attend the AACB Annual Meeting.

7. Workshop at the IFCC WorldLab in Istanbul.

The Education and Laboratory Management Committee also organised the APFCB-sponsored symposium on Awareness of Environmental Impact of Clinical Laboratories at the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Istanbul. The three speakers and the titles of their talks are:

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

II. Scientific Committee (C-Sc)

Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)

1. Collaboration on the global study on reference values

The study, planned and coordinated by C-RIDL (IFCC) was launched in December of 2011 after nearly two years of discussion by the committee, and a pilot study conducted in April of 2011. The objectives of the global study are 1) to establish country specific reference intervals (RIs) in a harmonised way using the common C-RIDL protocol, and 2) to explore sources of variations of major analytes across the countries after alignment of test results through common measurement of a panel of sera prepared by C-RIDL.

The following Asia-Pacific countries have completed their study:

China
India
Philippines

The following Asia-Pacific countries have joined the study:

Pakistan
Malaysia
Nepal

A symposium, workshop and meetings were held recently at the JSLM annual congress in Fukuoka, 24 and 25 November 2014 to discuss the project with participants from countries involved in the project.

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

The mass spectrometry working group has been working steadily throughout 2014 to develop recommendations to support the harmonisation of testosterone analysis by LC-MS/MS. A number of activities have resulted from this group:

- a) The method harmonisation pilot for serum testosterone by LC-MS/MS was presented as an oral communication by Dr Therese Koal on behalf of the group at the WorldLab meeting in Istanbul in June 2014.
- b) 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
- c) A poster was presented at the AACB Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide in October 2014..
- d) The harmonised traceable method has been used to generate the first set of preterm neonatal reference intervals for serum testosterone.
- e) The New Zealand Quality Assurance Group have requested support for harmonisation of their immunoassay serum testosterone methods against our groups LC-MS/MS method.
- f) Initial recommendations have been established for the harmonisation of serum testosterone by LC-MS/MS.
- g) Bio-Rad laboratories is proposing to utilise the harmonised method to generate quality control ranges of the Liquichek and Lyphocek material for mass spectrometry methods using the results obtained from the harmonised laboratories.
- h) An open face to face group meeting was conducted in conjunction with the AACB Annual Scientific Meeting held in Adelaide in October 2014.

3. **Urine steroid metabolomic studies by gas chromatography mass spectrometry to aid the diagnosis of disorders of sexual development in Vietnamese children.**

Objectives:

- To develop and validate the urinary steroids profiling analysis using gas chromatography- mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

- To establish the urinary steroids reference values for Vietnamese newborns.
- To investigate age-related changes in steroid ratios for children and adolescents.
- To apply the GC-MS urinary steroids profile in diagnosis of inborn errors of steroid synthesis at National Hospital of Pediatrics.”

This project has commenced with some initial purchase of materials. Dr Ronda Greaves' Honours student has trialled the proposed assay at RMIT and made some refinements to the method. Once the method is validated analysis of the patient samples will be commenced.

4. Project 3: Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course and POCT workshop

The 6th Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course was conducted in June 2014 with approximately 350 participants in Ho Chi Minh City and 200 participants in Hanoi attending the one day event. The course received television media coverage this year, in addition to the print media and Dr Ronda Greaves gave a live interview for the television station whilst in Ho Chi Minh City. Jan Gill from the RCPAQAP joined Dr Ronda Greaves to deliver this course. This course was conducted under the auspices of the APFCB and IFCC.

The 2nd Vietnam Point of Care Patient Testing Workshop was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City in June 2014. As this was a workshop the course was initially limited to forty attendees but due to its popularity the number was increased to allow for 50 attendees. The course proved to be very successful and a booking has been made to conduct the course on site at RMIT University's Ho Chi Minh City Campus in District 3 for June 2015.

5. Publications in 2014 arising from the work of the Scientific Committee

- Tran MT, Baglin J, Tran TT, Trung KH, Phung LT, Read A, Greaves RF. Biochemical diagnosis and monitoring of Neuroblastoma in Vietnam: Development of homovanillic and vanillylmandelic acid analysis by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and establishment of reference intervals. Clin Biochem 2014; 47: 206-215.

- 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.

III. Communications Committee (C-Comm)

Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma (India)

1. APFCB e-News:

The Chair of the Communications Committee is also the Editor of the APFCB e-News. APFCB news is the official communication newsletter for APFCB, published online since 2010. The publication team includes:

- Leslie Lai (Editor)
- Tester Ashavaid (Editor)
- Aysha Habib (Editor)
- Dr MVR Reddy (Web editor)
- Dr Purvi Purohit (Assistant editor)

This has ensured wide reach of the APFCB e-News to all the members at no additional cost. It covers the –

- Activities of APFCB EC, other committees & working groups,
- Activities of APFCB members,
- Scientific activities
- Case studies
- Corporate corner
- Calendar of congresses, meetings & webinars

The APFCB e-News 2013 is available online on the APFCB website. The earlier issues of 2010, 2011, 2012 are also available on the APFCB website. The next issue APFCB e-News 2014 will be released in the first quarter of 2015.

2. APFCB website:

The APFCB website was launched in 2011 and is being maintained by the Communication Committee. The website is dynamic and gives regular updates of the activities of member societies like Conferences, Workshops or lectures being held. Access is made available through the website to the ongoing Scientific, Education and Laboratory Management Committee programmes of the APFCB as well as the activities of the Communications and Congress and Conferences Committee. There is also a photo gallery of relevant events. The website is also a source of information on the APFCB Congress and regional meetings, the APFCB Travelling Lecturer programme as well as future events.

3. Public Relations

A power point presentation on the APFCB, its members and its activities has been developed by Mr Martin Fuhrer, Corporate Representative to the EB and is ready for use at member society conferences and at regional and international meetings to promote the APFCB. This presentation is being regularly updated by Mr Martin Fuhrer.

IV. Congress and Conferences Committee (C-CC)

Chair: Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)

1. APFCB Auspices

The following conferences in 2014/15 have been granted APFCB auspices:

- 9th International Conference of Anticancer Research, Sinthonia, Halkidiki, Greece, 6 to 10 October 2014
- AACB Annual Scientific Conference, Adelaide, Australia, 27-29 October 2014
- Chemical Pathology Course, 2014, 10th June 2014 at Hanoi and 14th June 2014 at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- EFLM-IFCC EuroMedLab, Paris, 21-25 June 2015

2. Turning Science into Caring (TSIC)

Abbott Laboratories has held TSIC meetings in the Asia-Pacific region over the past few years in conjunction with the IFCC. The purpose of these meetings is to bring laboratory and other healthcare professionals together to exchange information on trends in laboratory medicine. Following a discussion with a representative from Abbott at the EuroMedLab in Milan in May 2013, the APFCB was invited to become a partner of these meetings. An agreement to this effect was signed between the APFCB and Abbott on 22 July 2013 which will enable the APFCB to contribute to the planning of the scientific programme future TSIC meetings.

A TSIC meeting was held at Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam from 20th till 21st October 2014.. The APFCB President represented the APFCB at this meeting

3. APFCB Congress 2013 in Bali

The APFCB congress held in Bali in October 2013 was highly successful from several stand-points, including scientifically, socially and financially. The APFCB received 23% of the profits of the APFCB Congress 2013 in June 2014 which amounted to SGD 61,589.23.

4. Progress report from the Chair of the APFCB Congress 2016 Organising Committee

A contract has been signed with Enjoy Professional Conference Organizer Corp. to help us organize the congress 2016. They have organized hundreds of international conferences successfully. Website: www.weplanwell.com.tw

The dates for the APFCB Congress 2016 are confirmed as 26-29 November 2016. The symposia, workshops, and plenary lectures will be held at the Taipei International Convention Center, and the exhibition will be held at the Taipei World Trade Center. The flyers and postcards were designed for promotion.

The congress website has been established:
<http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/>

The tentative program, sponsorship prospectus, and information about conference venue have been posted on the website.

Auspices have been granted by WASPaLM, EFLM, and AFCC, and the logos are shown on the Congress website.

Report prepared by Leslie Lai with contributions from Joseph Lopez, Endang Hoyaranda, Martin Fuhrer; Kiyoshi Ichihara, Tony Badrick, Praveen Sharma, Ronda Greaves and Woei-horng Fang (Chair of the APFCB Congress 2016 Organising Committee).