

FESCC: ACTIONS ON EDUCATION, ORGANISATIONS AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Victor Blaton

*KU-Leuven and Department Clinical Chemistry
Az St Jan Av Ruddershove 10, 8.000 Brugge (Be)*

FESCC main target is »Serving Clinical Care and Laboratory Medicine in Europe«. Laboratory specialists are confronted with a new way of thinking concerning the management and the daily practice of their laboratories.

FESCC mission is to support and to promote laboratory medicine in Europe, to aid communication between IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) and the National Societies, to promote education and quality, and to encourage young European scientist to take an active role and part in the above described activities.

FESCC plays an important role in education, evaluation, exchanges and implementation of new developed diagnostic techniques and diseases. We started in 2000 our annual meetings on continuous postgraduate courses in Laboratory Medicine at the Interuniversity Centre of Dubrovnik. Europe has a long tradition and history in educations, schools, colleges, and universities for centuries and also science and biochemistry have longest traditions. FESCC is using these traditions to teach the profession in summer schools and courses. The aim of FESCC is also to collect and disseminate guidelines and models for postgraduate training and accreditation. The goal is also to get together the medical and scientific postgraduate training of laboratory specialist in co-operation with UEMS.

FESCC started discussions with the Charles University of Prague in 2001 and signed an agreement on the Interuniversity cooperation and the main

aims are to advance science and medicine in general, to hold scientific and educational events, to coordinate activities in the field and to seek to further European cooperation and harmonization.

The »European Education and Training Centre in Laboratory Medicine FESCC-Charles University Prague« organized last November a discussion forum on differences and similarities in post graduate training in the European countries.

FESCC now proposes to the Russian Society for Clinical Diagnostics a joint project on »Harmonization in postgraduate education in Laboratory Medicine in the Russian Federation« as a joint project for application to tempus (Takis).

The project is focused on the improvement of the higher education system in the field of laboratory diagnostics as one of the most important part of health systems disciplines. The aim of the project is also to harmonize and improve postgraduate education incorporating basic principles of the Bologna declaration into its content.

FESCC has an organisation that is able to sustain the project and to develop the progress of the project to a high level. The board of FESCC is international composed of high educated persons and is related to the scientific and education divisions of IFCC. The project goals are defined and should be treated with the consortium members in separate workshops. Prof Ana Stavljenic-Rukavina is nominated by the FESCC board as the coordinator of the activities and take care of the composition of the list of lecturers. A plan is prepared to follow the progress

Address for correspondence:

Prof. Dr. Victor Blaton
KU-Leuven and Department Clinical Chemistry
Az St Jan Av Ruddershove 10
8.000 Brugge (Be)

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of the courses and a list of evaluation items is present to evaluate the interactive systems between lecturers and the participants. A last part of our project are the plans to screen and to examine the participants in their growing knowledge in laboratory medicine. Also the coordinators of the different centres need an evaluation through the participants and the board members of FESCC.

FESCC-EB decided to accept the organisation of the joint Tempus project between European and Russian universities and is responsible for the success of the project.

The professional duties of the specialist in clinical chemistry differ from country in Europe. According to the strategic plan of FESCC one of the main goals is the promotion of a high scientific and professional level. The content dictate the post-graduate speciality training. FESCC organise continuous Post-graduate courses in clinical chemistry in the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik. Conferences and Workshops on »quality and accreditation of Medical Laboratories« were implemented in non EU countries. FESCC is occupied with the harmonization of our profession in Europe in accordance with WHO, especially in education, training and accreditation enabling flexibility within Europe.

The consequences of this training in relation to the EC4-EU register for Chemists are being discussed. Five main aspects of Laboratory Medicine can be discussed and discerned: Research, Analytical aspects, Clinical aspects, Management and Organisation and Education. These are all part of every speciality in this field. Laboratory specialist are at the same time Professionals and Lab Managers. The link between both is that professional contents influence

management issues. All previously described aspects are included in the EC4 syllabus for postgraduate training in Clinical chemistry.

In the EU, entering post-graduate training in clinical chemistry, is open for every one who has a proper university degree in medicine or pharmacy or chemistry. The outcome of it is a common one, irrespective of the degree at the start of the training, it is the result of the specialist training that counts, an equal degree should lead to an equal position. This will help governments and hospital management, it ensures consumer protection, and it will promote free circulation of the professionals in the EU. An overview shows that in nearly all EU countries a legally recognized register for MD's in clinical chemistry exists; in five other countries national clinical chemistry societies have formed their own national register.

Consequences of the proposal for a directive of the European parliament and of the council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications will be discussed. Closer contacts between the national societies have resulted in comparable programs for post-graduate training and closer similarity of contents and practice of the profession. During the last ten years many activities have taken place in the field of quality systems of medical laboratories and supported the forthcoming international ISO standard. »Quality management for the medical laboratory«. The forthcoming international standard ISO 15189 is a document of great importance for the development of quality systems and accreditation of medical/clinical laboratories. Important items for the future of our profession are described in the FESCC strategic plan and should be treated and related to the past.

Prof. Dr. Victor Blaton
President of FESCC