

International Federation of Biomedical
Laboratory Science IFBLS

ANNUAL AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017 - 2018



IFBLS Board of Directors
Communications@ifbils.org



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Governance

Board of Directors

IFBLS is governed by a Board of Directors, comprising of the President, President Elect and Past President (Management Committee) and five Board Members, elected by the members at the Biannual IFBLS General Assembly of Delegates.

IFBLS Board of Directors 2016 - 2018 were elected in Kobe, Japan, September 2016.

Marie Nora Roald, Norway	President
Anne Berndt, Sweden	President Elect
Tom Stowe, Canada	Past President
Leila Florento, Philippines	Board Member
Hironori Katayama, Japan	Board member
Alba Marzo, Italy	Board member
Cathy Otto, USA	Board member
Alan Wainwright, United Kingdom	Board member



Top left:
Hironori, Cathy,
Marie, Janna
and Alan

Bottom left:
Leila, Anne, Tom
and Alba

Executive Administrator

Ms. Janna Malseed (until May 31, 2018)

Ms. Janie Hames (from May 1, 2018)

Since 2009, Ms. Janna Malseed has been Executive Administrator for IFBLS. Janna decided to retire in 2018, and the Management Committee worked hard to find a replacement. Fortunately, Ms. Janie Hames accepted the position to be the new Executive Administrator, and we are excited to see what she can add to our work. A one-month training period was conducted in May 2018, and Janna has also accepted the offer to assist during the 2018 General Assembly of Delegates and member meetings. The Board of Directors wishes to thank Janna for all her hard work and dedication to IFBLS these 10 years, and is at the same time happy to welcome Janie to our IFBLS family.



From left: Marie Nora Roald, Janna Malseed, Janie Hames, Tom Stowe and Anne Berndt

IFBLS Mission Statement To increase recognition and contributions of Biomedical Laboratory Science to improve global health.

IFBLS Objectives

- To support, advance and promote good scientific laboratory practice through the development and adherence to high quality standards in diverse environments throughout the world;
- To support and promote education and advancement of science and technology in the professional development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists;
- To support, advance and promote ethical and professional values in Biomedical Laboratory Science;
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas through development of partnerships within the global healthcare community.

IFBLS Mission Statement and Objectives were revised and approved at the IFBLS Alternate GAD 2017, Hamilton, Canada.

Strategic Plan

IFBLS Board of Directors are guided by the IFBLS By-laws and Procedure manual.

At the first board meeting in 2016, a Strategic Plan outlining main goals and tasks was set up for 2016 - 2018. The plan has been followed up and revised at every board meeting.

In 2017, the Board decided to renew the Strategic Plan and link it more closely with the Mission and Objectives. A new plan, with tasks outlined for 2018 - 2022 was set up in March 2018. Tasks are set up for each goal in the plan

Please refer to the Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 for details.

In addition to the tasks mentioned in the Strategic plan, IFBLS also follow up tasks outlined in our bylaws and as required by our members.

Topic

- Promote the profession
- IFBLS World Congress
- WHO Collaboration
- Promote professional standards
- Education and professional development

Goal

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists
- The IFBLS Congress is prestigious; to host, to contribute and to attend
- IFBLS influence global health policies
- IFBLS provides support to the Biomedical Laboratory Scientist community
- IFBLS advances Biomedical Laboratory Science professionals

The Management Committee is comprised of the three officers of the Corporation. The Management Committee makes day to day decisions regarding the management and administration of IFBLS.

The Management Committee is led by the President, Marie Nora Roald. Members are President Elect Anne Berndt and Past President Tom Stowe.

Report

The Management Committee conducts most of the tasks by regular e-mail communication and web meetings. In 2018, the Management Committee met twice for interviews with Association Management companies and interviews to fill the position as Executive Administrator.

The IFBLS Board of Directors has been working for two years and we have had four meetings:

Kobe, Japan, September 2016

London, United Kingdom, March 2017

Hamilton, Canada, September 2017

Oslo, Norway, March 2018

The fact that we have only two meetings per year does slow us down despite very extensive use of e-mail correspondence. We have started using communication on Skype and will continue to pursue the opportunities this gives us, but it will not replace the need for meetings. The time differences make it hard to find times when all the Board members are available, but we will keep exploring digital communication tools.

Members of IFBLS are invited to submit a Chief Delegates report annually. All member input for further activities are collected and followed up on.

The Management Committee has received several invitations to participate and send greetings to national member association events. All invitations have been followed up, and greetings have been sent in reply to requests.

IFBLS President Marie Nora Roald participated at the 25th National Congress on Biomedical Laboratory Science, arranged by All India Institute of Medical Technologists, in Kolkata, December 2017. The President gave a speech on the Global development of Biomedical Laboratory Science - Scientific and Educational. AIIMT representatives saw the IFBLS' president's presence as underlining the global support and interest for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in India.



President Elect Anne Berndt was invited to give a presentation on the topic "The Position of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Globally" at the 4th Croatian Congress of the Professional Department for Medical Laboratory Activities, May 2018.



The Membership Committee is led by Past President Tom Stowe, with Board Members Hironori Katayama and Alan Wainwright.

Report

Over the last two years the Membership Committee was pleased to recommend four new members to IFBLS Board of Directors. All of these members were approved by the Board of Directors for membership into IFBLS. These Associations are: Indian Confederation of Medical Laboratory Science, Federation of Laboratory Medicine (Russia), Malaysian Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, and Austrian Association of Biomedical Scientists. The Committee had requests about membership from two BLS student associations, unfortunately they did not meet the criteria for membership. We also had an application for membership and regrettably this group did not meet our membership criteria.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report, we have not received renewal membership fees from 3 members: Portugal, Spain and Uganda. Member retention is a very important issue and one which the Board of Directors takes very seriously. The Membership Committee has prepared a short exit survey, which we anticipate will assist us in identifying any issues.

The Membership Committee has simplified the new member application process and form. We no longer require new members to translate their bylaws into English. These changes were in keeping with the bylaws and approved by the Board of Directors. It is important for our membership application process to be simple and easy, while still ensuring our criteria for membership is met. The next task for the Membership Committee is to develop a member satisfaction survey. This will assist future Boards in strategic planning and to ensure we are providing the right services for our membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Stowe
Chair, Membership Committee

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is led by Board member Cathy Otto, with Board Members Alba Marzo and Leila Florento.

Report

The Scientific Committee has prepared a position paper on Point of Care Testing to be considered by the 2018 GAD. Member position papers on point of care testing were reviewed to identify relevant positions and policies. Chief delegates reviewed and provided recommended changes during the 2017 Chief Delegate meeting. The Scientific Committee and Board members provided additional input for the final version to be considered for adoption by the 2018 GAD.

The Advisory Committee on Microbiology was created, developed and implemented during 2016-2018. Members of this Committee identified a theme for BLS Day, developed a statement regarding the role of BLS in reducing antimicrobial resistance that was submitted to WHO, identified topics to be used for webinars, workshops and a microbiology-themed edition of the journal. In the process of identifying potential speakers for the webinars and workshops and authors for the manuscripts to be submitted to the journal.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Otto
Chair, Scientific Committee

The Development Committee is led by Board Member Alan Wainwright with President Elect Anne Berndt and Board Member Hironori Katayama.

Report

IFBLS Congress Student Forum

The Development Committee has looked to build on feedback from the student forum in Kobe, Japan 2016 and subsequent workshops at the Alternate GAD in Hamilton, Canada 2017. The aim of the 2018 Student Forum is to:

- Give students a more integrated experience through active participation (sharing, debating, comparing, networking)
- Give students the opportunity to share their voice
- Be invited to be part of international community
- Promote of future competence development

To achieve these aims students will be:

- Invited to attend the Alternate GAD
- The theme for their forum will be Leadership and Communication. This will be supported by a presentation by Christine Nielsen (Speak and Be Heard - Communicating Across the Generations in the Workplace (as in Hamilton) to stimulate thoughts on leadership and communication challenges for the future.
- Students will be challenged to come up with ideas around theme of Leadership and Communication for the public face of Pathology;
- Student will have expected to participate in a task orientated attendance at symposium aimed at developing a) Ideas around how the science may apply to future developments/pathology investigations; and b) reflection on the value of the symposium (delegates perspective, scientific content, promoting the profession)

International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Marie and Anne met with an ISCO representative in May this year and presented a position paper on behalf of IFBLS that proposes the recognition of the occupation of biomedical laboratory scientist within the ISCO classification Major group 2 (Professionals), sub-major group 22 (Health Professions). This was well received and with a little more work will be finished for publication.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Wainwright
Chair, Development Committee

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is led by Board Member Leila Florento, with Board Members Alba Marzo and Cathy Otto.

Report

- A. Guideline for the Awards Committee. The guideline was initially prepared by Tom Stowe and Alba Marzo, reviewed by the board and approved for implementation.
- B. Mechanics for oral and poster presentation. The mechanics were prepared by the committee with the approval of the board.
- C. Confirmation of award sponsors. The sponsors were contacted for confirmation of the sponsorship of the award.
- D. The call for volunteer judges was circulated to the member countries. The list of volunteer judges was submitted from the members. The assignments will be distributed as soon as the list of presenters and their abstracts are available.
- E. 2018 IFBLS Awards: Awardees for the different 2018 IFBLS Awards were selected by the committee in coordination with the sponsors.
 1. Elisabeth Pletscher Award
 2. Past President's Award
 3. Nordic Award
 4. JAMT Award
 5. DVTA Continuing Education Award
 6. IFBLS Student Award
 7. TMER Award

The winners for the following awards will be chosen during the World Congress 2018

8. Good Poster Award - sponsored by ASCLS
9. Young Scientist Award - sponsored by KAMT
10. JSHT Award - sponsored by JSHT

Respectfully submitted,
Leila Florento
Chair, Awards Committee

WHO Collaboration

Our presence and contact with WHO has increased. IFBLS is very lucky to have an interested Designated Technical Officer (DTO) in WHO, Adriana Velazquez-Berumen. IFBLS is now included in many processes on the development of material on medical laboratories and our voice is heard. Marie Nora Roald and Anne Berndt represented IFBLS at WHO Executive Committee meeting in January 2018, and at the World Health Assembly in May 2018. At this time meetings were held with our DTO and other collaborating partners.

The IFBLS - WHO collaboration report 2016 - 2018 has been submitted, and a proposal for a new workplan 2019 - 2021 has been drafted. The report and new workplan will be up for discussion at the next WHO Executive Committee meeting in January 2019.

Scientific Network

The IFBLS Board of Directors has identified a need for an IFBLS Scientific Network of qualified Biomedical Laboratory Scientists within all laboratory disciplines to assist in document review or projects which will benefit the development within laboratory medicine and our profession. The call for volunteers will be posted in 2018. Our list of volunteers and qualifications will be maintained by the IFBLS office.



From meeting with WHO DTO May 2018:
Anne Berndt,
Adriana Velazquez-Berumen,
Marie Nora Roald

Finances

IFBLS is funded by annual membership fees and a biannual world congress fee. The financial situation is currently stable, but with increasing costs for travel and other activities, there is a need to start discussing regular increases in the membership fee.

Donation



In 2017, IFBLS received a donation from the estate of a previous member, Britta Karlsson, after she passed away in 2016 at the age of 80.

Ms Karlsson was a longtime supporter of IFBLS, education and internationalization for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists.

Britta Karlsson was a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and worked as an Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science at Northeastern University in Boston until she retired. She actively serviced the needs of international students throughout her career, and was a great supporter of IFBLS. She was one of the authors of the "International directory of medical laboratory science education" published in 1996, in cooperation with the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (IAMLT) - now IFBLS. Britta had a particular interest in the work on the International Directory of Biomedical Laboratory Science Educations and with the encouragement for participation by Laboratory Technologists from developing countries, and has requested, but not directed, the Federation to use the funds for those purposes.

The Board of Directors is deeply grateful to Britta Karlsson for her generous donation and will do our best to honor her legacy. Her generous donation opens opportunities for more activities and will take the Federation several steps further. The funds are not to be used to cover running costs, but to do something we could not have done without this donation.

Please refer to the Financial Report and Auditor's report for more information.

IJBLS

The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science was launched in 2010. The journal is hosted by Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM). Professor Chuan-Liang Kao has been Editor in Chief since the launch of the Journal.

A total of 36 articles has been published over 10 issues. In sum 165 authors have contributed articles, authors from Nigeria, Finland, Greece and USA as top contributors.

The IFBLS Board of Directors is currently working to increase the number of articles for the journal. We are looking at how to strengthen the editorial board, recruit more peer reviewers and seeking PubMed listing.

E-learning

IFBLS e-Learning modules are produced for IFBLS by JAMT, Japanese Association of Medical Technologists.

Two new topics are presented in 2018: Risk Management and Infection Control.

All e-Learning modules can be accessed from our website www.ifbls.org.

Website and Member Communication

The new www.ifbls.org website was launched in January 2018. The website has responsive contents and design adapted to the requirements of today and tomorrow.

In addition to communication on our website, members are provided with a newsletter four times annually. E-mails are sent regularly to Chief Delegates.

The Board of Directors use a Communication and activity plan to make sure we keep the members informed about current activities.

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) is an independent non-governmental association of national societies in 35 countries, representing more than 185 000 biomedical laboratory scientists and technologists worldwide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Early bird registration**
Register for the IFBLS World congress in Florence, Italy by [15 June 2018](#)
- IFBLS 2018 Awards**
The IFBLS 2018 Awards programme is now available. See all the announcements and apply for the awards by [30 April 2018](#)
- TMER Award for trainee**
The award supports one week of training in Genetic Testing in Japan. Apply by [30 June 2018](#)

IFBLS CONGRESS 2018
IFBLS 33rd World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science, 22-26 September 2018, Firenze, Italy

OUR SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL
The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS) is our on-line journal, presenting the most current research on and devoted to the dissemination of new knowledge concerning biomedical laboratory sciences

INTERNATIONAL BLS DAY
15 April is the international BLS day. The topic for BLS Day 2017 and 2018 is "Antibiotic Resistance: Biomedical Laboratory Scientists respond to the global threat"

NEWSLETTER
See our [newsletter](#) for current news and information

Social Media

Facebook



IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists and it is important to be present and active on social media.

President Elect Anne Berndt has been managing the IFBLS Social media, and present regular updates on activities and items of interest through Facebook.

As of July 15 2018 IFBLS has 3,077 followers on Facebook and 319 on Twitter.



IFBLS World Congress 2018

The 33rd World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science is hosted by ANTEI in Florence, Italy 22 - 26 September 2018.



History and development

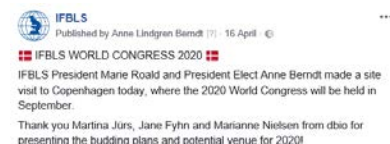
The first IFBLS World Congress was held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1961, and since 1964 the Congress has been a biannual event.

During the last years, the IFBLS Congress Hosting and Planning Guidelines have been reviewed and revised. The Management Committee has been working to have a transparent and open process for bidding and selection of locations for IFBLS World Congress and Alternate Gad, and bid forms for hosting of Congress and Alternate GAD have been developed.

A proposal for a Congress Advisory Group has been prepared and call for members of the Congress Committee will be sent out in 2018.

IFBLS World Congress 2020

The 2020 IFBLS World Congress is hosted by Danske Bioanalytikere (dbio) and will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 1 - 4 September 2020.



Future congresses

Bids for future congresses are welcomed at any time.

With our member's support, the IFBLS congress will continue to be the global meeting point for networking, sharing knowledge and inspiration for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists around the world.

Collaborations

IFBLS collaborates with numerous organizations for mutual benefits.



World Health Organization

World Health Organization (WHO). The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global guardian of public health. The goal at the World Health Organization (WHO) is to build a better, healthier future for people all over the world. Working through offices in more than 150 countries, WHO Secretariat staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people. IFBLS is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in official relations with the WHO.



Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). IFBLS has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CLSI for many years. This agreement is used to build collaborative endeavors based on mutual interests. The main goal is to use each other's strengths to further promote the development and dissemination of globally applicable consensus standards and guidelines to further education of Biomedical Science and healthcare professionals.

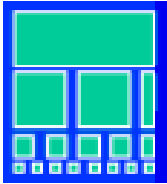


EPBS

European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science (EPBS). IFBLS has had a MOU with EPBS since 2012. We recognize that IFBLS has a global focus, while EPBS has an European focus. Both organizations prepare various policy documents; this is an area we will work together, when appropriate. Both organizations promote each other.



International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA). IFBLS has had a MOU with IFBA since 2014. Each organization will promote the activities of the other when appropriate. Policy documents can be shared, when applicable. At conferences, we could utilize the expertise from each organization for educational purposes. We may collaborate on projects of mutual interest.



International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) is an international classification for which the International Labour Organization (ILO) is responsible. ISCO is a tool for organizing jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job. IFBLS has established a task force with the aim to achieve correct classification for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists, in ISCO Group 2 professionals.



International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 162 national standards bodies. Through its members, ISO brings together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges. IFBLS is a Category A liaison to ISO/TC 212 - Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems.

Acknowledgements

IFBLS wishes to extend our gratitude to

- Britta Karlsson for her generous donation;
- Janna Malseed for her hard work and dedication for IFBLS for 10 years;
- CSMLS for office support and sponsorship for the 2017 Alternate GAD;
- IBMS for sponsoring meeting rooms and catering for the Board meeting in London 2017;
- NITO BFI for sponsoring Marie Nora Roald's activities;
- NITO BFI for sponsoring meeting rooms and catering for the Board meeting in Oslo 2018;
- JAMT for producing and presenting the IFBLS e-Learning modules;
- TSLM for hosting The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science;
- Katrin Berndt for advice and support on working with social media;
- All IFBLS member associations and Chief Delegates for your trust and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Nora Roald
IFBLS President 2016 - 2018

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