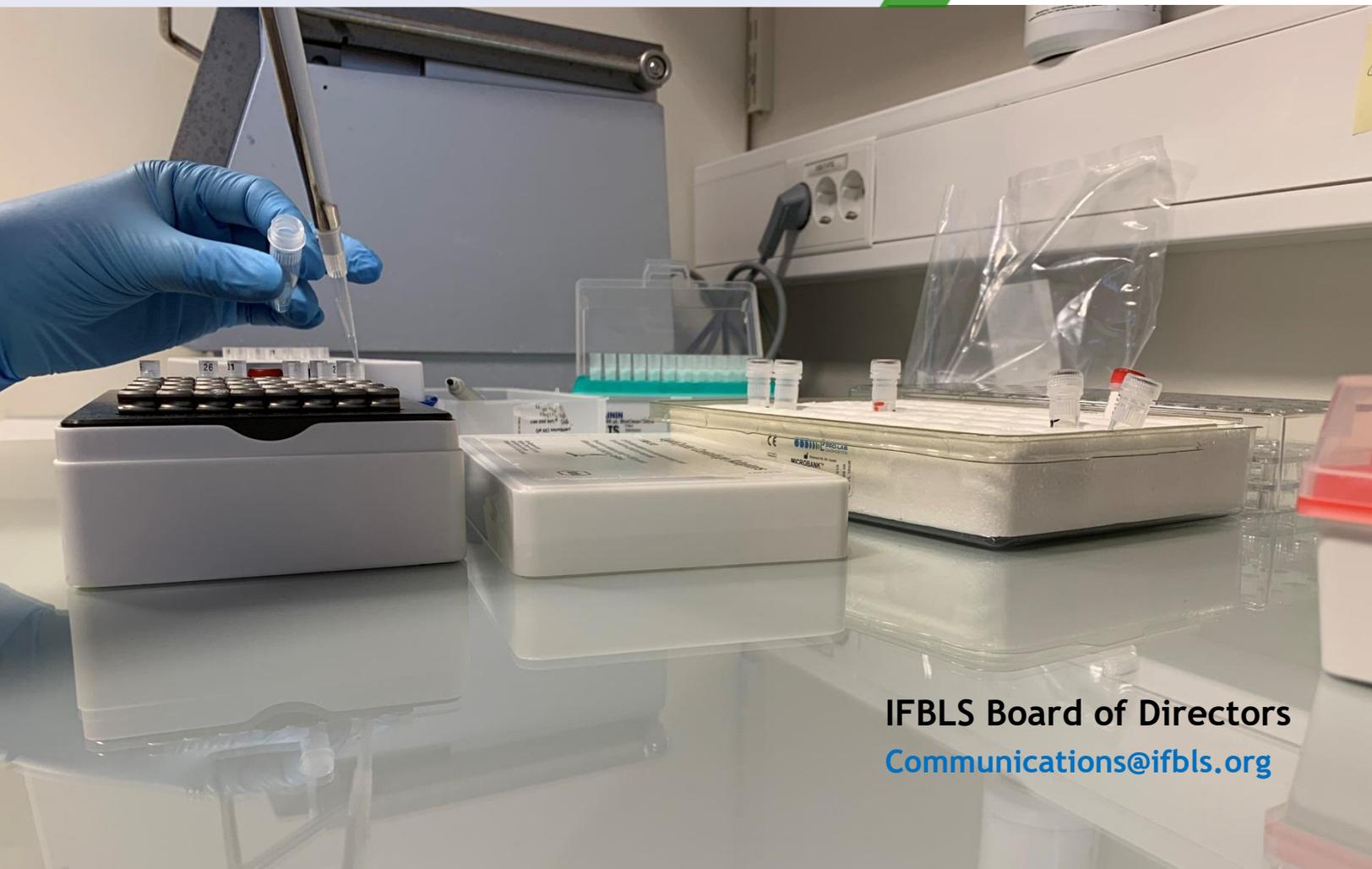


International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science IFBLS

ANNUAL AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019 - 2020



IFBLS Board of Directors
Communications@ifbbs.org

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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 biennial IFBLS General Assembly of Delegates.

IFBLS Board of Directors 2018 - 2020 were elected in Florence, Italy, September 2018.

Anne Lindgren, Sweden
Alan Wainwright, United Kingdom
Marie Nora Roald, Norway
Bert Asbild, Denmark
Anselm Akume Ewang, Cameroon
Leila Florento, Philippines
Hironori Katayama, Japan
Cathy Otto, USA

President
President-Elect
Past-President
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member



Left to right: Cathy, Anselm, Marie, Anne, Alan, Bert, Leila, and Hironori.

Executive Administrator

Ms. Janie Hames

Ms. Janie Hames is the Executive Administrator for IFBLS and provides excellent support to the Management Committee, Board members and IFBLS Chief Delegates and the member associations. Janie contributed to the planning and execution of the Alternate GAD in Brisbane, Australia 2019 as well as the Board meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in March 2020. Janie was the contact person towards Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine in the transfer of the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science to be hosted by IFBLS. The IFBLS office organization, including bookkeeping, banking and financial reporting has been further developed by Janie, as well as the office use of digital communication platform Zoom.

The organizational development that Janie has implemented and supported as well as the competencies, administrative and social contributes to Management Body great satisfaction.

IFBLS wishes to extend our gratitude to CSMLS for hosting the office and for including Janie.



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 by the IFBLS Board of Directors in March 2019.

IFBLS Board of Directors are guided by the IFBLS By-Laws and Procedure Manual.

At the first Board Meeting in 2018, the Strategic Plan, outlining main goals and tasks was set up for 2018 - 2022. The plan was followed up and revised in the spring of 2020.

The Strategic Plan is linked closely with the Mission and Objectives. Tasks are set up for each goal in the plan.

Please refer to the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024 for details.

In addition to the tasks mentioned in the Strategic Plan, IFBLS also follow up tasks outlined in our By-laws 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

Management Committee

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, Anne Lindgren. Members are President-Elect Alan Wainwright and Past-President Marie Nora Roald.



Report

The Management Committee conducts most of the tasks by regular e-mail communication and web meetings. Zoom has been used for digital meetings, almost on a weekly basis, in order to keep up with day-to-day issues and other business.



In January 2020, the Management Committee met in London, UK at the IBMS office. During the days the tasks and meetings for 2020 were discussed and planned. The Procedure Manual for internal processes was updated and revised as well as proposals for editorial changes of the By-Laws were processed.

The IFBLS Board of Directors met before and after the Chief Delegates Meeting and Alternate GAD in Brisbane, Australia in September 2019. A Board meeting was planned and started in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 March, but due to the fast spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, Board members had travel restrictions or had to leave Stockholm before the meeting was over. Since then e-mail communication within the committees as well as within the Board has continued and a digital Zoom meeting was held for urgent matters arising.

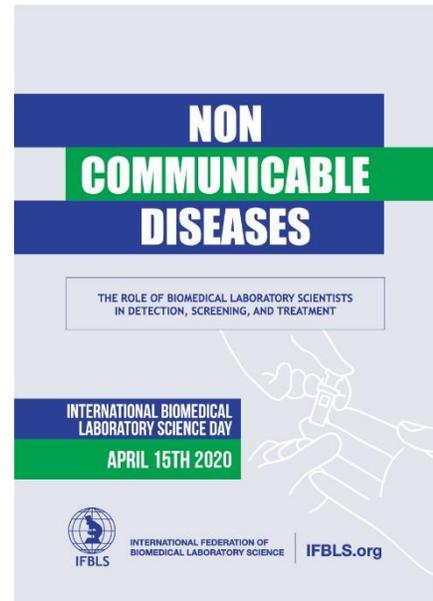


Members of IFBLS are invited to submit a Chief Delegates Report annually. The 2019 reports have been thoroughly analyzed in order for their contributions to IFBLS future work. Many of these provide input for the discussions and workshops held during CD meetings and Open Forums.

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.

BLS Day 2019 - 2020

The topic for BLS Day 2019 and 2020 is "Non Communicable Diseases - The role of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in Detection, Screening and Treatment".



On 15 April, President Anne Lindgren was invited by EPBS President Fernando Mendes to give a statement through digital link at the BLS Day celebration at the Coimbra Health School, Portugal. The topic was on Biomedical Laboratory Scientists role in the Corona diagnostics.

Anne posted a video greeting to all Biomedical Laboratory Scientists on the IFBLS Facebook page reaching nearly 25,000 persons.

The Membership Committee is led by Past-President Marie Nora Roald, with Board Members Bert Asbild and Anselm Akume Ewang.

Report

New member applications for approval

Following Board decision in March 2020, the Belgian Association of Biomedical Laboratory Technologists (BVLT-ABTL) has been approved as a member of IFBLS, and are now accepted as a full association member. Additionally, the Myanmar Medical Technologist Association (MMTA) has been approved as a provisional member of IFBLS, but as of 15 June we are awaiting their final confirmation.

Membership renewals 2020

As of 15 June, IFBLS now has 34 paid member associations, in 31 countries representing approximately 204,000 members worldwide. Please refer to the website for a list of current members.

Due to lack of payment of membership dues, the membership status for India (AIMLTA), Italy (ANTeL), South Africa (SMLTSA) and Sri Lanka (AMLT) have been revised on the IFBLS website to Lapsed Member.

Implementation of suspension

Members who fail to pay their membership fee are placed under suspension until the time they reinstate their membership. Suspension means they lose their rights to nominations, voting, apply for awards, to host meetings, to have members in the Scientific Network of Experts, or claim a reduced IFBLS member congress fee.

Recruitment of new members

Our Executive Administrator has had inquiries from interested associations. These are followed up with membership applications forms and more information. At this time there are no membership applications pending.

Additionally, IFBLS has had many inquiries from individuals inquiring about student membership, or volunteer opportunities, or IFBLS award information. These inquiries are generally referred back to their national association for more information on their student membership or volunteer opportunities.

As we know the personal touch with colleagues from other countries appears to be the best way to increase membership, we encourage all IFBLS members to use the opportunity to profile IFBLS membership when meeting with non-member associations who are eligible for membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Nora Roald
Chair, Membership Committee

The Scientific Committee is led by Board Member Cathy Otto, with Board Members Hironori Katayama and Leila Florento.

Report

Advisory Group in Microbiology

Wrote and submitted 4 manuscripts to the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences. These 4 articles were published in March 2020 in Volume 9 Number 1.

1. Septicemia: An extreme Host Response to a Global Health Problem.
2. The Role of the Microbiology Laboratory in the Diagnosis of Septicemia.
3. Rapid Identification of Pathogens Recovered from Blood Stream Infections.
4. The Use of Biomarker in the Diagnosis and Management of Sepsis.

The Group is working on identifying topics for lectures and workshops for the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program as well as a second series of articles for the journal.

Patient Safety Position Paper

Feedback was collected during the Chief Delegates Meeting in Brisbane, Australia in 2019 which was considered in the development of the draft position paper. Committee members met on several occasions to discuss the proposed paper. Draft position papers were shared with the entire Board with a request for feedback.

Two versions of the position paper were submitted for consideration, one with more detail (details added as a result of the feedback) and one with less detail (minor edits were included from the feedback).

Board members were invited to vote for their preferred version. Version 2, with a few additions, is submitted to members of the Alternate GAD to consider for adoption in September 2020.

Other Position Papers

Considering sending a survey to member associations requesting input as to other position papers that would be of benefit to them.

Potential future position paper to be considered is workforce shortage.

IJBLS Development

Working with the Microbiology Advisory Committee to identify a theme, topics, and potential authors for a Microbiology themed issue.

Current chair of the Microbiology Advisory Committee, Pat Tille, Ph.D. has accepted the Editor-in-Chief position of our IJBLS journal.

Gathering information on the process and programs used for publishing an online journal and develop a protocol for submitting manuscripts.

Other Advisory Committees

Reviewed applications of individuals who submitted documents to be considered for the Scientific Advisory Committees.

Two additional Advisory Committees have been identified, Hematology and Laboratory Management.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Otto
Chair, Scientific Committee

The Development Committee is led by Board Member Anselm Akume Ewang, with President-Elect Alan Wainwright and Board Member Bert Asbild.

Report

The Development Committee activities are still on-going based on main themes of work identified in the 2018-2020 development plan.

A summary of the work since the last two board meetings of September 2019 and March 2020 are stated as follows:

a) ISCO Classification and Supporting Statement

Work for this project will now focus on core competences, the HR statement for WHO and recognising Biomedical Laboratory Scientist as our international title.

b) Recognition of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists as the Preferred Title.

Committee will continue to look at ways this can be promoted.

c) Student Engagement in the World Congress.

The Development Committee will continue to look at ways students can be engaged. With the postponement of the Congress more input to support the student role is anticipated.

d) Feedback from Chief Delegate Reports

A review of these was presented to the Board and will be used to inform topics for future meetings.

e) Review of the Functions of the Development Committee

No further progress has been made.

Respectfully submitted,
Anselm Akume Ewang
Chair, Development Committee

The Awards Committee is led by Leila Florento, with Board Members Cathy Otto and Hironori Katayama.

Report

Guidelines for the Awards program were reviewed and approved by the Board in Brisbane, September 2019. With the postponement of Congress 2020 to August 2021, the Awards were also postponed. Announcements for the Awards to be presented at Congress 2021 will be made later this year.

List of Awards - 2021 Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark:

1. Nordic Award - 15,000 Swedish Crowns (may be given up to 2 with 15,000 Swedish Crowns each).
2. JAMT Award - 200,000 JPY (may be given up to 2 with 100,000 each).
3. ASCLS Good Poster Award - The prize will be awarded for the best three (3) posters and normally consists of a gift.
4. KAMT Young Scientist Award -The prize consists of \$2,000 USD. One (1) Young Scientist winner will receive \$1,000 USD and medal, and two (2) \$500 USD each for their scientific contributions to the successful Congress with his/her outstanding presentation.
5. JSHT Award - The award consists of \$300 USD including the fee of an article for magazine of JSHT.
6. IFBLS Student Award - \$1,500.00 USD
7. Elisabeth Pletscher Award - IFBLS Board will choose awardee (plaque and certificate).
8. Past President Award - plaque or work of art
9. Outstanding Oral Presenter - to work on mechanics with Congress Scientific Committee (prize - plaque and certificate or cash - for suggestion)
10. TMER Award - confirmed for 2021 Overseas Training Project

Plan with Congress 2021 Scientific Committee for announcements

- Mechanics for Student Award revised
- Judging mechanics for oral and poster presentation revised

Respectfully submitted,
Leila Florento
Chair, Awards Committee

WHO Executive Board Meeting

In 2019 IFBLS' status as Non-State Actor - (NSA) in official relations with WHO was renewed. In 2020 the WHO EB met 4 - 8 February. Present were the Executive Board members of WHO (34 countries), WHO Director General, Chair of the Executive Board, WHO member states representatives as well as NGOs and other actors in official relations with WHO. IFBLS submitted one statement on "Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem" which was accepted and given by President-Elect Alan Wainwright.



IFBLS's Designated Technical Officer Adriana Velazquez-Berumen and colleagues took time out of their very busy schedule to have a separate meeting with IFBLS. Adriana emphasized the importance of IFBLS's contributions in the upcoming Open Meeting on the revision of the Essential List of Diagnostics (EDL) on 23 March. WHO contributions to the World

Congress in Copenhagen was discussed as well as current status of ISCO revision.

Alan was able to attend Adriana's meeting for Non-State Actors on 6 February. Some of the topics of this meeting was Launching Patient Safety campaign 2020-2030 - one decade for improving patient safety, Cervical cancer - technical specifications for guidance and procurement,

Digital health and promotion for WHO and encouragement to NGO's to collaborate more.

Additionally, the annual reporting of the collaboration between WHO and International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science has been submitted.

World Health Assembly 2020

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly was held as a virtual meeting with a reduced agenda on 18 - 19 May due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will reconvene later in the year.

Open meetings and Work groups

SAGE IVD

WHO has established a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD), acting as advisory body to matters of global policies and strategies related to in vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Due to the pandemic the Open Meeting in the SAGE IVD on 23 March was conducted as a virtual meeting and IFBLS was given the opportunity to review the documents.

The annual membership fees and the biennial world congress fee fund IFBLS's activities. The financial situation is stable, but even though the restrictions for traveling due to the pandemic during 2020, increasing costs are anticipated for coming years. The Board of Directors suggested during the Chief Delegates meeting in Florence 2018 to look into increase of membership fees, and this was discussed further at the Chief Delegates meeting in Brisbane, Australia 2019.

Based on the input received from members, a proposal to gradually increase the membership fees by small amounts biennially is worked out, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the proposal will not be put forward for voting in 2020.



From activity day at Pathology Queensland in connection with IFBLS CD-meeting 2019

Britta Karlsson Legacy

In 2017, IFBLS received a donation from the estate of Britta Karlsson, a former IFBLS member. Ms. Karlsson was a longtime supporter of IFBLS, education and internationalization for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists.

The donation has been invested as the Britta Karlsson Legacy.



Britta Karlsson Advancement Program

The annual profit from the Britta Karlsson Legacy will finance the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program.

The program is aimed for IFBLS member associations, primarily from Low- and Middle-Income Economy Countries (LMICs), to sponsor an international lecturer to travel and share their knowledge in a workshop or similar event as outlined in the criteria.

The purpose is to promote the education and professional advancement of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (BLS), and to provide updated information for BLS in specialized fields (e.g. clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology, clinical hematology, clinical immunology, etc.).

Scientific Network of Experts

The Scientific Network of Experts was set up in 2018, and currently approximately 30 experts are registered in the Network, covering a wide variety of specialties and from nine different countries / member associations.

The Network will be used for a variety of tasks, primarily providing input to IFBLS work related to the WHO, IJBLs and providing experts for the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program.

IJBLs

The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLs) was launched 2010 and has been hosted by Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM) for its first 10 years. Professor Chuan-Liang Kao was the first Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

In late 2019 the transfer of the journal from TSLM to be hosted by IFBLS was initiated by TSLM. This has entailed communication, planning and setting up a new digital platform for IJBLs. New Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Patricia Tille who is in the process together with IFBLS Management Committee to set up the Editorial Board, identifying peer reviewers and further developing article categories, submission, publication as well as working to recruit more articles for the journal.

IFBLS is looking forward to continuous scientific contributions from Biomedical Laboratory Scientists of the world.

IFBLS is most grateful to TSLM for developing, setting up, sponsoring and hosting the journal for its first decade and this will be recognized during the World Congress 2021 in Copenhagen.

Website

The IFBLS website is updated regularly in order to provide relevant information and news, supported by a newsletter to member associations four times per year.

Social Media

The IFBLS Facebook page keeps increasing its number of followers, being the communication channel that reaches the largest number of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists. The Facebook page is IFBLS's platform for interactions of both formal and informal aspects, sharing information but also creating interest in IFBLS and the profession we represent, as well as inspiration to become involved in the associations, globally or nationally.

Newsletter

The web page and the regular member emails are supported by a newsletter to member associations four times per year. This is short information on news and upcoming events in a format that can be shared.

The IFBLS World Congress is the biennial event where Biomedical Laboratory Scientists worldwide meet, present our scientific work and learn more about Biomedical Laboratory Science globally. This is an opportunity to find out about our cultural differences and professional contexts and realize that our similarities are stronger than differences.

The World Congresses are organized by IFBLS member associations. This contributes to the variations between the congresses, which are also part of the charm. All input from congress participants is taken to heart, documented and discussed by the Board of Directors. Important issues and aspects are forwarded to the organizer of the upcoming congress, in order to assure continuous improvements. The Congress Guidelines will be revised if experiences from the congress demonstrates a need to make clarifications.

Bids for future congresses are welcomed at any time. It takes member association support for the congresses to continue being the global meeting point for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists where scientific work is shared, networking done and inspiration for the future is generated.

IFBLS World Congress 2020 postponed to 2021

The 2020 World Congress, *Join the Lab Race* is hosted by the Danish member association Danske Bioanalytikere (dbio) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Due to Covid-19 dbio had to take the decision of postponing the congress to 24 - 28 August 2021. The program for 2021 will in addition to the program planned for 2020 include tracks on Corona diagnostics and its further development.

We are sure the congress will fulfill all our dreams and provide a global arena for networking and expanding knowledge.



IFBLS World Congress 2022

Bids for the 2022 World Congress have been reviewed by the Board of Directors and a proposal will be put forward for voting at the GAD in September 2020.

IFBLS collaborates with numerous organizations for mutual benefits.



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.



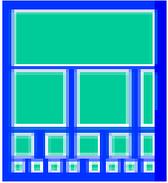
European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science (EPBS).

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.

IFBLS wishes to extend our gratitude to

- Danske Bioanalytikere (dbio), in process to host the IFBLS World Congress in 2021 instead of 2020 as planned.
- Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine for making the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science to what it is today.
- All IFBLS member associations and Chief Delegates for your trust and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Lindgren
IFBLS President 2018 - 2020



The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) is an independent non-governmental association of national societies in 32 countries, representing more than 204,000 biomedical laboratory scientists worldwide.