

International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS)

ANNUAL AND **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** 2024 - 2025



IFBLS Board of Directors
Communications@ifbls.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 IFBLS members at the biennial General Assembly of Delegates (GAD).

IFBLS Board of Directors 2024 - 2026 were elected at the General Assembly of Delegates in Vancouver in September 2024.

Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson, Sweden
 Hassan Aziz, United States
 Marie Culliton, Ireland
 Bitten Kaanbjerg Kristensen, Denmark
 Maria Klement, Canada
 Giseon Song, Korea
 Alan Wainwright, United Kingdom
 Robyn Wells, Australia

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

IFBLS Board of Directors 2024-2026



Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson - President



Hassan Aziz
President-Elect



Marie Culliton
Past-President



Bitten Kaanbjerg Kristensen
Board Member



Maria Klement
Board Member



Giseon Song
Board Member



Alan Wainwright
Board Member



Robyn Wells
Board Member

Executive Administrator

Ms. Janie Hames is the Executive Administrator for IFBLS and provides excellent support to the Management Committee, Board members, IFBLS Chief Delegates and the Association Members.

The IFBLS office organization, including bookkeeping, banking and financial reporting continues to be further developed by Janie, as well as the office and webinar use of digital communication platform Zoom. The organizational development that Janie has implemented and supported as well as the competencies, administrative and social, are essential to the smooth and efficient operation of the organisation.

Providing administrative support for the Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series, working with the Awards Committee, and acting as the anchor for arranging our meeting in Stockholm, Sweden have all added significantly to the workload in the office.

The Management **Committee are particularly appreciative of Janie's** corporate knowledge and expertise she provides.

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



Mission Statement and Objectives

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.

Strategic Plan

The IFBLS Board of Directors are guided by the IFBLS By-Laws and Procedure Manual. As a registered non-profit organization in Canada, IFBLS is also mandated by **Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (CNCA)** to maintain our legal status.

The Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 outlining work areas and specific objectives with activities to be undertaken was presented and agreed.

The Strategic Plan is linked closely with the Mission and Objectives.

In addition to the work outlined in the Strategic Plan, IFBLS also follows on up tasks outlined in our By-laws, and as required by our members.

Promote the Profession	• IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists
IFBLS World Congress	• New ways to meet and learn from each other
WHO Collaboration	• IFBLS influences global health policies
Promote professional standards	• IFBLS provides support to the Biomedical Laboratory Scientists community
Education and professional development	• IFBLS provides opportunity for Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

Management Committee

The Management Committee is comprised of the three executive 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 Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson, with President-Elect Hassan Aziz and Past-President Marie Culliton.

Report

The Management Committee conducts most of the business of IFBLS by regular e-mail communication and Zoom digital meetings, on a weekly basis to keep up with day-to-day issues and other business.

Key areas of work since September 2024 have included:

- Contract finalized for the 36th IFBLS World Congress in Chiba, Japan from 23 - 27 September 2026. Congress is generously hosted by Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT).
- Collaboration plan between WHO and IFBLS for the period 2025-2027 drafted and accepted on 156th session of the WHO Executive Board.
- Met with our new WHO Dedicated Technical Officer (DTO) Ana Aceves Capri in April 2025.
- Participation in three joint statements with Non-State Actors at the 156th session of the WHO Executive Board held 3-11 February 2025, and at the WHA78 held 19-27 May 2025.
- Introduction of a virtual Mid-Term Report CD meeting in Feb 2025.
- Initiation of an ISCO Taskforce Group with the aim of Reclassifying/ Recognition of Biomedical Laboratory Scientist within the ISCO classification Major group 2

Management Committee

Together with the Board

- Relaunching the Scientific Network of Experts
- Delivering of the Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series
- Developed and launched the 2025-2026 BLS Day theme: *Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics*
- Increased presence on social media

President's Activities

The President is the public face of the IFBLS and its Board. Presidential activities promoting IFBLS and the profession of Biomedical Laboratory Science included:

Invited Presentation

Participation in the NML Nordic Congress in Iceland, 5-7 May 2025. Closing speech and panel debate contribution.

Recorded message for Biomedical Laboratory Science Day.

Greetings and messages of support to different **member's conferences**.

Participated in the 74th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Copenhagen Oct 29- 31.

Participated in different WHO virtual meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson
President

Membership Committee

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is led by Past-President Marie Culliton, with Board Members Giseon Song and Robyn Wells.

Report

Membership Application

Membership Application Form was reviewed and modifications implemented.

Consideration of Potential New Members

As a global organisation we seek to represent the global profession. There are large areas where we have little representation. Opportunities may exist in Europe, South America and Asia. There are organisations such as the AAMLS and EPBS may have countries who could join IFBLS.

The committee continues to reach out to potential members and would appreciate the support from all members in this drive.

New Applications

Applications for membership were received from Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. Documentation was reviewed, clarifications requested and received.

The Membership Committee recommended both Tunisia and Saudi Arabia for membership and this was approved by the Board.

Engagement with Lapsed Members

Direct and personal contact was made with New Zealand, Switzerland, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia.

Membership Committee

Three new members to IFBLS who joined in 2024 did not renew in 2025. Specific targeted contact has been made with these organisations to understand why this might have happened

Communication Strategy

An invitation letter for new members, and another to re-engage with lapsed members, were prepared and agreed.

Member of the Committee act as direct contacts with applicants during engagement process to facilitate integration.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Culliton
Chair, Membership Committee

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is led by Robyn Wells, with Board Members Giseon Song and President-Elect Hassan Aziz.

Report

Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series:

The successful webinar series continued, with three webinars held since meeting last September, and two more scheduled for later this year.

- 4 December 2024. Title: *Biomedical Laboratory Scientists: Diagnostic Partners in Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity*
Speaker: Marie Culliton, MSc, MBA, FACSLM. Laboratory Manager
The National Maternity Hospital. Past-president IFBLS.
- 12 March 2025. Title: *Karyotypes to Bioinformatics: A journey through the Past, Present, and Future of Diagnostic Genetics*
Speakers: Peter Hu, PhD, FACSc, FASAHP and Vibhuti Srivastava, BS, MS, PhD. School of Health Professions, University of Texas, MD
Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

21 May 2025. Title: *Professional Writing and Publishing in Scientific Journals*. Speakers: Patricia M. Tille, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)CM, AHI(AMT), FACSc, Professor, Graduate Program Director and Vice Dept Chair
Clinical Health and Information Sciences Dept. University of Cincinnati
Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory
Science, IFBLS and Catherine Otto, Ph.D., MBA, MLS(ASCP)CM, SHCM,
DLMCM, FIFBLS, Editor-in-Chief, Clinical Laboratory Science, ASCLS

IFBLS and international collaboration were close to Britta's heart, and we are pleased to honour her legacy and deep connection to education through this webinar series.

Scientific Network of Experts

A review of the roles of the IFBLS Advisory Groups, and the Scientific Network of Experts, was performed resulting of the relaunch of a unified single structure: the Scientific Network of Experts.

The IFBLS Scientific Network of Experts was created to assist the IFBLS Board of Directors (BoD) in document review or projects which will benefit developments within laboratory medicine and our profession.

An invitation to IFBLS members to submit applications has been circulated with a closing date of September 1st.

IJBLS Development:

Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Dr. Patricia Tille and the IJBLS Editorial Advisory Board, a second issue of the IJBLS was published in October 2024, and the first issue of 2025 was published in April.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Wells
Chair, Scientific Committee

Development Committee

The Development Committee is led by Board Member Alan Wainwright, with Board Members Bitten Kaanbjerg Kristensen and Maria Klement.

Report

A summary of Development Committee activities since its reconstitution at the BOD meeting following the GAD in Vancouver on 15 September 2024.

In 2024 the Development Committee met on 14 Oct and 18 Nov 2024, plus an additional meeting with the Social Media Administrator. All meetings were conducted on Zoom. Zoom meetings in 2025 took place on 20 January and 28 April.

The first meeting was used as an induction to the role and expectations of the Development Committee and a handover from Maria Klement who had chaired the committee under the previous BoD. The second meeting concentrated on the draft Strategic Plan and Operational Plan which had been circulated by our President. All agreed it was clear and focussed.

The plans identified the following areas of work for Development Committee:

1. Work towards ISCO recognition.
2. CD reports revise template.
3. Social Media policy: Regular presence on social media. Deliver social media policy.
4. Britta Karlsson Advancement Programme: look at use of programme and potential for new award.
6. WHO - attending meetings.
7. IDBLSE continue to update.

Progress in these activities is summarised:

1. Work towards ISCO recognition:

Aim: The achieve recategorization of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists as a Professional Group.

The latest reference point for this is outcomes of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) 11-20 October 2023 report entitled Impact of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). A range of issues have been/are being discussed: movements in jobs between major groups, redefinition of different unit groups; in depth discussion on skill levels within the classification. Working group will continue and updated ISCO to be agreed by 2028.

Achievements:

- a) Working Group for the Reclassifying/Recognition of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists within the ISCO Classification Major Group 2 was set up and included input from EPBS. Members of the group have a range of experience from different countries. Alan Wainwright leads the group for IFBLS.
- b) A presentation was given at the IFBLS Mid-Year Report virtual meeting with Chief Delegates on 19 February.
- c) The ISCO Task & Finish group agreed the content of a survey to IFBLS Chief Delegates and Association Members that was sent out 21 April 2025. Survey Monkey was used as the platform. The results have been analysed and will be presented at the September AltGAD meeting. Outcomes of the survey will be used to inform further representation to the ILO and ISCO-08 review.
- e) IFBLS is now in communication with Lara Badre, Senior Statistician at ILO who is leading the review of ISCO-08. Information regarding the reclassification of BLS is being provided. Our WHO Technical Ana Aceves Capri has also been made aware of this.

2. CD Reports revise template:

Aims: To initially identify any common areas in order for the full committee to review and discuss options for a revised template.

Achievements:

a) Comments from CDs have been mapped to the current IFBLS strategy 2024-2028 and can be used to further the progress of committee work. E.g. the cross-mapping is to be used as a guide to CD priorities and potential committee/BoD work.

3. Social Media policy:

Aims: Regular presence on social media. Deliver social media policy.

Achievements:

- a) A regular presence on social media has been maintained with posts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. Interviews with Gabriella and Hassan have now been published. Marie Culliton as Past-President is next.
- b) An article by Judy Tran (2024 TMER Award winner) has been published on our webpage.
- c) Notifications of IFBLS events have been posted.

4. Britta Karlsson Advancement Programme:

Aims: look at use of programme and potential for new award.

The program criteria for the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program was discussed at the Alternate GAD meeting in Ireland 2023. The changes included: increasing funds to \$3,000.00 CAD, no profit sharing between the host country and IFBLS, more flexibility of locations and involvement of the IFBLS, and funding provided after the event. Two applications were received in 2024, with one meeting all criteria. Burundi (ANTEBBU) was the first successful applicant for funding from the Britta Karlsson Advancement Programme. There is potential in the By-Laws for wider use of other individuals in the committee (not to exceed directors), e.g. involving CDs from low income countries in reviewing the BK Award terms and conditions.

Development Committee

Achievements:

Work in progress. The Development Committee agreed at their last meeting that the current structure of the Advancement Programme needs to be reviewed as the aims of supporting educational development in Biomedical Laboratory Science through workshops and speakers facilitated by the host country is proving to be difficult for a variety of reasons. Committee will prepare a review paper for discussion at a future board meeting.

5. IDBLSE continue to update:

Achievements:

a) Maria continues to add information. Noted Membership Committee were considering some revisions to the format. The importance of IDBLSE for ISCO has been noted.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Wainwright
Chair, Development Committee

Awards Committee

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is led by Maria Klement, with Board Members Bitten Kaanbjerg Kristensen and Alan Wainwright.

Report

The committee reviewed the By-laws and Procedure Manual as pertained to the Awards Committee. Recommended to the Board the amendment of Section 10 Committees to add the Awards Committee as the committee has been in place for years and continues to add new awards.

With the help of the Executive Administrator, the IFBLS webpage now has a tab for the Awards. The goal for the year is to populate the description of all the awards. As well, the tab includes previous award winners.

Fellowship Award

Following discussions at the AltGAD in Dublin in October 2023, the Fellowship Award was launched in June 2024. This prestigious award acknowledges individuals from IFBLS member associations who have made significant contributions as administrators, educators, clinicians, or researchers, and serves to inspire ongoing excellence within the field.

The first four recipients of the Fellowship were presented at the GAD in Vancouver:

- Taebok Lee, Ph.D, MT, MLS/MB (ASCPi)CM, Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT).
- Prof Chuan-Liang Kao, Ph.D, Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM)

Awards Committee

- Kyoko Komatsu, Ph.D, Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT)
- Catherine Otto, Ph.D., MBA, MLS(ASCP)CM SHCM, DLMCM, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

In 2025, the Fellowship Award documents were reviewed and updated with the newest version available on the IFBLS website. Both social media and an email was circulated to members for the request of nominees for the Fellowship Award. By the closing date of July 1st, the Awards Committee received 4 nominees. The 2025 Fellowship Awards will be presented at the AltGAD 2025 in Stockholm, Sweden in September.

Elisabeth Pletscher Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize an IFBLS Associate member for their continuous support of Biomedical Laboratory Science through continuing education and other activities and to promote the objectives of IFBLS. The IFBLS Associate member may be either an individual or an Association.

The recipient in 2024 was Dr Patricia Tille, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS).

Past President's Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual who has provided outstanding service to the profession of Biomedical Laboratory Science in the field of international exchange with IFBLS in the promotion of the Goals and Objectives of IFBLS. The award is not given to current Board Members. The recipient need not be a Biomedical Laboratory Scientist.

The recipient in 2024, recommended by the current Past President of IFBLS and the two previous Past Presidents before that, was Tom Stowe.

Awards Committee

Tsukuba Medical Laboratory of Education and Research (TMER)
Tsukuba Medical Laboratory of Education and Research (TMER) in cooperation with IFBLS, selects through an application process, one international Biomedical Laboratory Scientist to attend a week of practical training in Japan. Judy Tran of Canada (CSMLS) was selected as the 2024 winner of the TMER Overseas Trainee Project!

The committee reached out to Judy Tran and the Development and Award Committees showcased her experience in Japan through social media and our website.

The Nordic Award

The aim of this award is to enable an IFBLS Chief Delegate with restricted financial resources to attend the biennial General Assembly of Delegates and to promote the objectives of IFBLS.

In 2024 the NML group generously selected Kaptan Singh Sehrawat - India (ICMLS) for the award.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Klement
Chair, Awards Committee

WHO Collaboration

WHO Collaboration

IFBLS is a Non-State Actor (NSA) in official relations with WHO. We fully support the ongoing work of WHO in this area and the huge challenges that are being faced. In our own areas of Biomedical Laboratory Science, the impact on clinical service laboratories and staff have been monumental and we have highlighted the importance of having sufficient numbers of trained, qualified staff to carry out testing to appropriate standards that ensure accuracy of the results. As the world readjusts post the pandemic and the **'New Normal' becomes established the importance of our profession in diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring disease along with contribution to public health must not be ignored.**



We have during the last year welcomed a new Designated Technical Officer, Ana Aceves Capri, and to maintain our status we have agreed to a new three-year workplan for 2025-2027 that included provision of:

- Support the dissemination of best practice in line with WHO policies and guidance documents to the international medical laboratory community for sustainability in the clinical diagnostic laboratory;
- **Provision of technical inputs to inform WHO's continuous review of the Essential in vitro diagnostics list (EDL) and its implementation;**
- **Improved information to support WHO's efforts towards continued education and development of the clinical laboratory workforce;**
- **Support WHO's technical work towards strengthening the safe use of Laboratory Derived Data into Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms.**

WHO Collaboration

- Provision of technical inputs that may inform the development of WHO policies and guidance documents, as appropriate, pertaining to pathology and laboratory medicine.

Attendance at WHO meetings is key and President Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson participated in the 74th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Copenhagen Oct 29-31 2024. Despite not being present in person, IFBLS participated in three joint statements together with other Non-State Actors at the 156th Session of the WHO Executive Board held 3-11 February 2025, and at the WHA78 held 19-27 May 2025.

We very much appreciate the opportunities to engage with these activities, and plan for more involvement in WHO activities in the coming year.

Triennial Review and Workplan

In our Triennial Review with WHO, the plan for collaboration between WHO **and IFBLS aims at supporting WHO's efforts with Member States towards** achieving the WHO Strategic Priorities as set in its Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14) and the WHA resolution 76.5 on Strengthening Diagnostics Capacity, with special attention on issues related to laboratory medicine. Our latest workplan was accepted at the 156th Session of the WHO Executive Board held 3-11 February 2025. Key areas for activities include sustainability, workforce capacity and AI.

Finances and Meetings

Finances

The annual membership fees and biennial World Congress fee traditionally fund **IFBLS's activities**. In 2024, there was no World Congress and IFBLS hosted the GAD and the 70th Anniversary celebrations in Vancouver, BC Canada.

The financial situation is stable, but even though restrictions for traveling due to the pandemic during 2021 and 2022 reduced expenditures, increased costs are anticipated for coming years. One example is the GAD meeting held in Vancouver, BC Canada last year. The Board of Directors will continue to monitor this and the strategy of IFBLS for the coming years include evaluation of financial models for Congress as well as discussing a member fee increase and the costs of member meetings.

At the AltGAD 2025 the Board of Directors are proposing a by-law change opening for virtual member meetings, a strategy that can decrease costs but also increase member participation.

Meetings

The Board of Directors have had 5 board meetings since the election in 2024. One was held in person at the GAD in Vancouver, and the others were held virtually through zoom. With Board members spanning different continents, meeting times have been challenging but successful because of each Board member's commitment to IFBLS. Two Board meetings are planned adjacent to the AltGAD in Stockholm in September.

The Management Committee meets twice a month virtually through zoom, and met once in person in Sweden in February 2025.

Virtual options are great alternatives but cannot fully replace the value of meeting in person, especially in an international context.

Britta Karlsson Legacy

In 2017, IFBLS received a generous donation from the estate of Britta Karlsson, a former member and long-time supporter of IFBLS, particularly in the areas of education and internationalization for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists. The donation has been invested as the Britta Karlsson Legacy. The annual returns from the Legacy now finance Britta Karlsson educational initiatives.

Britta Karlsson Advancement Program

The programme is aimed for IFBLS associations members, primarily from Low-and Middle-Income Economy Countries (LMICs), to sponsor an international lecturer to travel and share their knowledge in a local workshop, or lead a similar event such as an online webinar.

The programme was refined and relaunched in 2024, however without successful output. The Board of Directors will evaluate how to improve the programme to honour the educational legacy of Britta Karlsson.

Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series

The successful webinar series, first launched in 2022, has now held 12 webinars. These webinars are a great opportunity for members from around the world to learn from our international colleagues. IFBLS is deeply grateful to our speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise. The next two webinars planned are 26th August, and 6th October 2025.

BLS Day 2025-2026

BLS Day 2025 - 2026

International BLS Day celebrated on the 15th of April each year provides an opportunity for Biomedical Laboratory Scientists across the globe to contribute to the mission and objectives of IFBLS.

This year the IFBLS Board chose the theme *Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics*.

This two-year theme highlights the vital role of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in advancing clinical health care while prioritizing environmental responsibility.



On 15th April 2025, we celebrated together the innovative efforts of BLS professionals worldwide implementing sustainable practices that improve diagnostics and reduce waste, as we continue to make a profound impact on global health and the environment.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions as we work towards a healthier, more sustainable future.

Scientific Network of Experts

Scientific Network of Experts

The Scientific Network of Experts was first established in 2018 to support the Board of Directors by providing global expertise for document reviews and projects that advance laboratory medicine and the profession.

Following discussion in Dublin in 2023, and Vancouver in 2024, the Scientific Committee evaluated the activities of the Scientific Network and four IFBLS Advisory Groups. Following these discussions, the structure and role of the network and advisory groups were redefined. It was decided to consolidate efforts into a single Scientific Network, with the flexibility to form specific groups as needed.

A call to members to relaunch the Scientific Network was issued in June 2025.

IJBLS Journal

The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS) is an on-line peer-reviewed journal published bi-annually by the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (IFBLS).

The journal is intended to disseminate information and knowledge to the international laboratory community by accepting a variety of manuscripts for publication. Those manuscripts should be original research articles, literature or mini-reviews, case studies, brief communications and letters to the editor describing original investigations in all fields of biomedical laboratory sciences.

The journal covers several major disciplines: clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, clinical serology and immunology, hematology, transfusion medicine, clinical virology, clinical bacteriology and mycology, clinical microscopy, histopathology, cytology, quality control and quality management, laboratory management, education and ethics, laboratory safety and any important topics or issue related to the biomedical laboratory science.

Since GAD 2024 in Vancouver two new issues, Vol. 13, No. 2: 77-157 published in October 2024, and Vol. 14, No. 1: 1-39 published in April 2025.

IFBLS looks forward to receiving continuous scientific contributions from Biomedical Laboratory Scientists of the world.

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

IFBLS is present on three social media platforms, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook. From 2024, IFBLS has engaged a social media moderator on a part time basis.

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** major 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. This is short information on news and upcoming events in a format that can be shared. Recent newsletters were sent in December 2024 and in June 2025.

Mid-Year Report virtual meeting

A Mid-Year Report virtual webinar was held in February 2025, as a new initiative to report to Chief Delegates about activities performed by the Board of Directors, and also to highlight a specific topic. President Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson and Board member Alan Wainwright took part in the webinar that included information on the BLS Day 2025 theme, a WHO collaboration update, preparations for the AltGAD in Stockholm 2025, as well as a presentation about the ISCO classification and the initiative of an IFBLS ISCO task force group.

We aim to repeat this mid-term meeting in 2026 to provide more regular member information.

ISCO Reclassification

Following the IFBLS General Assembly of Delegates (GAD) held in September 2024, the IFBLS Board of Directors established an ISCO Task & Finish Group to lead efforts in seeking the reclassification of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists to Professional Group 2: Health Professions under the ISCO-08 framework.

As part of this initiative, IFBLS has conducted a short survey with Association Members to better understand how ISCO impacts the BLS profession in each member country. Also, contact has been taken with Lara Badre, Senior Statistician at the International Labour Organization. She is leading the work on the ISCO revision, and the taskforce is providing her with data and information to help us make our case in the upcoming ISCO revision (2028).

IFBLS World Congress

The IFBLS World Congress is a biennial event where Biomedical Laboratory Scientists worldwide come to 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 hosted and organized by IFBLS member associations. Global destinations contribute to variations between the congresses, which are also part of the charm. Feedback from Congress participants is taken to heart, documented and discussed by the Board of Directors.

We are excited to share that planning is well underway for the 36th IFBLS World Congress taking place 23-27 September 2026 in Chiba, Japan!

Hosted by the Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT), alongside the 75th JAMT Congress, this event will take place at the Makuhari Messe Convention Center.

Theme: *Bridge to the Future of BLS Around the World*

Preparations are already in progress to deliver a dynamic program filled with innovation, global collaboration, and opportunities for professional growth.



Collaborations

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-State Actor (NSA) 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 endeavours 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.

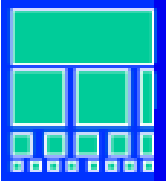


European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science (EPBS). IFBLS has had a MOU with EPBS since 2012. We recognize that IFBLS has a global focus, while EPBS has a European focus. Both organizations prepare various policy documents; this is an area we will work together, when appropriate. Both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

Collaborations



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 will continue 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.

Acknowledgments

IFBLS wishes to extend our gratitude to

- The speakers for our Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series
- The IJBLs Editorial Board
- All IFBLS member associations and Chief Delegates for your continued trust and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson
IFBLS President 2024 - 2026



The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) is an independent non-governmental association of national societies in 38 countries, representing more than 240,000 Biomedical Laboratory Scientists