



IFBLS

International Federation of
Biomedical Laboratory Science

IFBLS Statement to the 146th WHO Executive Board

Agenda Item 9

Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science is a federation of National Organizations of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (BLS). Presently, we represent 37 associations in 33 countries with more than 185,000 members. Our members are the scientists who perform, interpret and report results of routine and specialized laboratory procedures.

Effective screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancer for women aged 30 and above, can prevent women from developing cervical cancer, but many women in low- and middle-income countries are being diagnosed at a late stage and many countries lack adequate diagnostic, treatment or palliative care services.

Biomedical Laboratory Scientists are important members of the healthcare team in preventing disease. Screening for pre-cancer can include HPV-testing and cytology assessment, which are both in the areas of expertise of Biomedical Laboratory Scientist and performed in the setting of laboratory medicine. Clinicians can rely on results from our profession to diagnose and treat women.

Following the call from the WHO Director General in 2018, a Draft Strategy for the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem will be put for the World Health Assembly's approval in May 2020. A strategy for eliminating cervical cancer needs to build not only on existing resources and opportunities, but also on innovations in technology and services, such as more affordable point-of-care "test and treat" technology for cervical lesions.

Biomedical Laboratory Scientists can provide solid advice and training also for other health care professionals where testing may be performed outside the laboratory. Since we are experiencing a shortage of BLSs we would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Executive Board to keep sight of the importance of these healthcare workers and the need to ensure an adequate supply of appropriately trained BLS.

Respectfully submitted

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President
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