

Strategic Planning in Malawi

The Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) became the 90th Full Member of IFCC in 2015. MAMLS identified the need to develop quality in laboratory medicine in Malawi and applied to the IFCC Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML) programme for assistance. The IFCC Past President worked with MAMLS to agree a two-day programme, which was implemented during a visit in January 2016.

Day 1 of the visit comprised a full day workshop in Lilongwe attended by representatives from:

- Ministry of Health
- University of Malawi College of Medicine
- Community Health Services Unit
- University Research Company
- Leaders of laboratory medicine services
- MAMLS

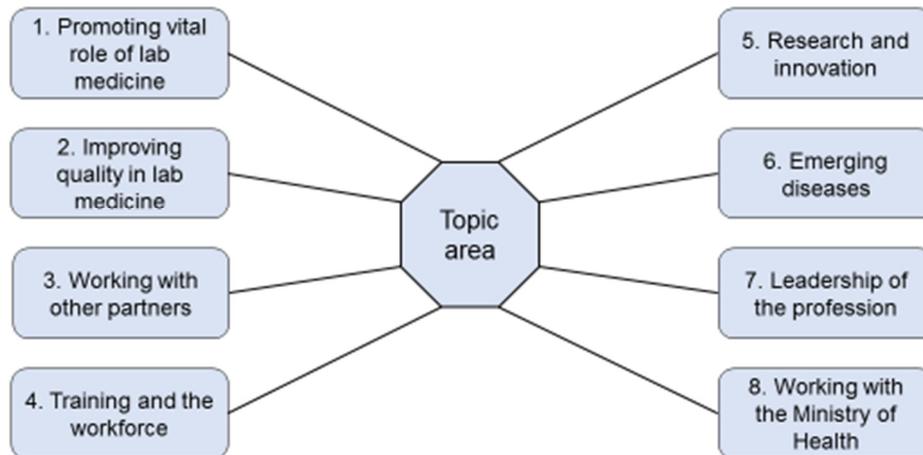


The workshop started with a series of presentations including:

- The MAMLS strategic plan
- The status of external quality assessment in Malawi and in neighbouring Zambia
- The status of education and training in laboratory medicine in Malawi
- The IFCC DQCML programme

The second phase of the workshop was a detailed analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of laboratory medicine in Malawi. This was followed by targeted discussion to build on the strengths, address the weaknesses, maximise the opportunities and minimise the threats. The result was a detailed action plan for the future development of laboratory medicine in Malawi. This action plan was constructed around eight topic areas, It has been presented to key stakeholders and implementation is commencing within the available resources.

Indicative action plan for laboratory medicine in Malawi



Day 2 consisted of visits to two different laboratories. One rural laboratory was housed in poor accommodation and a lack of equipment and consumables meant that, to the frustration of the staff, it was only able to offer a limited repertoire of testing. In contrast a modern laboratory in Lilongwe was operating to high quality standards with an impressive repertoire of testing and extensive external quality assessment. The difference between the two laboratories reflected the respective levels of investment into the laboratory services.

Details of the IFCC DQCML programme are available from www.ifcc.org following links to Education and Management then EMD Working Groups and Special Projects.