



NEWSLETTER: JULY 2016

Introduction

The Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) is a charitable Trust, established in Swiss law, which is devoted to fund raising and to supporting programmes that help to improve the quality and delivery of laboratory medicine services, particularly in emerging nations. Full details of FEN may be found at www.ifccfoundation.org

In this newsletter the Board of Directors reports on the first three projects supported by the FEN. Support for further projects will rely on the level of donations received by the FEN and/or collaborations with partner organisations.

Laboratory based surveillance for communicable disease in Malawi



Malawi is a small East African country with significant healthcare challenges, especially from communicable (infectious) disease. Laboratory medicine services are in need of development and external agencies, including IFCC, are helping to build an appreciation of the importance of quality. Education and training of laboratory technologists to degree level is being expanded and it is hoped to introduce higher level training in the near future.

The FEN has approved an application from the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) to support two laboratory scientists to receive laboratory-based disease surveillance training at the 'amref health Africa' headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The training course aims to build capacity of

laboratory staff in the implementation of laboratory-based surveillance and public health actions, based on the evidence from laboratory data. The course provides skills and competence of laboratory personnel to collect, analyse, and use laboratory surveillance data for early detection and response to disease outbreaks and other events of public health importance.

On completion of their training the two scientists will develop training materials, which will be promoted and made available to clinical laboratories throughout Malawi.

This project is supported by the Ministry of Health in Malawi and is a good example of collaboration in the interests of improving public health.

‘Lab Surfing’: A resource to facilitate global exchange between young scientists



The IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) aims to ensure that young scientists make a significant and growing contribution to the activities of IFCC and to the promotion of laboratory medicine at the centre of healthcare. TF-YS has established a global network of YS, including many from developing countries.

‘Lab Surfing’ is a project designed by TF-YS and proposed by YS from Argentina, India and Nigeria. It aims to support the construction and launch of a website to connect YS from around the world, and especially from emerging nations. The specific aim of the Lab Surfing project is to facilitate self-organised exchange programmes between YS who are trainees in laboratory medicine.

The FEN was impressed by the vision, ambition and simplicity of this project proposal. The outcome of ‘Lab Surfing’ will be measured in terms of the number of YS using the site, their countries of origin and the exchanges that derive from those contacts.

‘Adopt a Professional’: Collaboration to support the training of laboratory medicine specialists

The ‘Adopt a Professional’ project is a collaboration between the FEN and the Società Italiana di Biochimica Clinica e Biologia Molecolare Clinica (SIBioC).



The FEN and SIBioC have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in providing training in laboratory medicine to scientists from designated emerging nations. Trainees will be selected on merit to spend time training in an Italian centre of excellence. Trainees will be supported after their visit through a mentorship scheme.

SIBioC will be responsible for the following elements of the project:

- Definition of the training programme and targets for completion
- Selection of the laboratories to deliver the training
- Selection of the training supervisor and mentor for each selected young professional
- Provision of information on suitable accommodation while in Italy
- Provision of the finance for the project

The FEN will be responsible for the following elements of the project:

- Promotion of the project to eligible countries through IFCC Full and Affiliate Member societies
- Selection of young professionals to participate in the project. Selection will be made on the basis of information provided on a standard application form and will be undertaken by independent assessors
- Communication with the young professionals to obtain an evaluation report, in standard format, on completion of the project
- Coordination of feedback from the project and publication of outcomes
- Handling the finance for the project through the FEN account

The ‘Adopt a Professional’ project will commence towards the end of 2016. The FEN views this project as an exciting collaboration that could be repeated in other countries.

Next round of project applications:

The closing date for the next round of project applications is:

30 September 2016

The FEN is able to support projects in emerging nations that are organised by societies, groups or individuals active in laboratory medicine provided that the project will lead to an outcome that:

- Can be assessed in terms of quality improvement, and/or
- Provides a baseline for local support to continue the project

Projects shall be educational in nature and may occur at undergraduate or postgraduate level. The FEN has limited resources and so can only support pilot projects or projects that will deliver results against defined objectives, normally within six months. The FEN cannot support salary costs for researchers, although it may support essential travel (economy) and other expenses incurred by researchers.

Applications for a FEN project grant must be made on the standard application form, which is available from the 'Applying for a Grant' section of www.ifccfoundation.org

Donations and collaborations

The FEN requires donors and collaborations to continue and expand its work



Individual and corporate donors to the FEN are encouraged to contact the Chair of the Board of Directors (chair@ifccfoundation.org) to discuss their donation and how it may be used and acknowledged. All donations will be deposited into the FEN bank account, with the following details:

Bank: Credit Suisse, Geneva, Switzerland
Account Name: Foundation for Emerging Nations
Swift code: CRESCHZZ12A
IBAN: CH33 0483 5158 8655 2100 0
Account number: 0251-1588655-21

As the 'Adopt a Professional' project demonstrates the FEN is enthusiastic about collaboration with other organisations to undertake projects that improve the quality and delivery of laboratory medicine services in emerging nations. Such organisations should contact chair@ifccfoundation.org to discuss their suggestion.