



Newsletter: AUGUST 2017

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 third newsletter, the Board of Directors reports on projects that have been funded; suggests ways in which partner organisations can work with FEN; and gives details of the fundraising process.

1. Project Updates

'Lab Surfing'

This is the first FEN project to reach conclusion and it has been a great success. <https://www.lab-surfing.com/en> is a social network specially designed and created for young laboratory medicine professionals. With 'Lab-Surfing' you can find colleagues sorting by city, country or laboratory interests, and connect/contact freely with the whole world. To date >500 young scientists from 60 countries are registered with 'Lab-Surfing'.



Further details may be found in the project report at www.ifccfoundation.org or by visiting the 'Lab Surfing' website

'Adopt a Professional'

The 'Adopt a Professional' programme is a collaboration between the FEN and the Società Italiana di Biochimica Clinica e Biologia Molecolare Clinica (SIBioC) to provide advanced, practical training in laboratory medicine to trainees from designated countries. The FEN handles the application and selection process, administration and finance whilst SIBioC provides the funding and the host training centres. After three months practical training the two scholarship recipients will be offered mentorship through the next stage of their career.



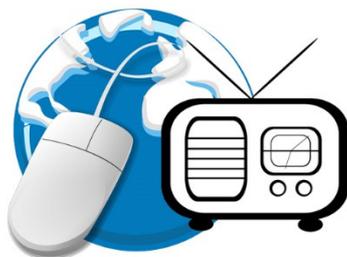
Many applications were received for the first two training programmes, which were awarded to:

- **Ms Lumbani Phiri from Zambia** who undertook her training in the laboratory of Prof Marcello Ciaccio in Palermo, Sicily from June – August 2017
- **Mr José Pereira Brunelli from Paraguay** will train in Rome from December 2017 in the laboratories of Prof Sergio Bernardini and Dr Letizia Angiolella

The FEN Board is actively seeking funding support to enable a second round of scholarships to be awarded.

'AFCC AfricaMedLab Internet Radio'

The FEN has provided an award to the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry. The award is for purchase of the technical equipment needed to provide regular internet radio programme for laboratory medicine specialists across Africa.



The programmes will comprise news items and interviews with key figures from laboratory medicine and they will be produced by a team of scientists (mainly young scientists) from across the continent under the direction of Professor Hilda T Marima-Matarira from Harare, Zimbabwe.

Comprehensive external assessment of proficiency of malaria microscopists and laboratory capacity in districts stratified for malaria elimination in Ethiopia

The FEN has agreed to collaborate with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and the Federal Ministry of Health in Ethiopia to support a project that should assist in the elimination of malaria from designated districts in the country. The project will assess the competence of the individuals performing malaria microscopy and the capacity of the laboratories in which



they work. This will enable targeted educational and infrastructure support to be provided to improve the quality of malaria diagnosis as part of the elimination programme. The principal investigator of the project will be Desalegn Nega Wada from EPHI.

2. Collaboration with partner organisations:

Experience from its first year of operation suggests that sponsors are more willing to support specific projects than to make an open donation. Accordingly, the FEN Board invites suggestions of projects from potential partner organisations of how they can work with FEN to support the overall aim of improving the quality of laboratory medicine in emerging nations. Suggestions are likely to include:

Collaboration between developed and emerging nations:

The FEN Board is aware that many organisations, such as national societies of laboratory medicine or diagnostics companies, are interested in assisting emerging nations to improve quality in laboratory medicine but they are not sure how to go about it. The FEN Board may play a facilitating role. Collaboration may take many forms, including:

- Workshops run by experts for laboratory professionals in emerging nations. Workshops may be on analytical quality, laboratory management or quality management leading to laboratory accreditation
- The preparation of e-learning materials that can be made freely available to laboratory professionals in emerging nations
- Hosting training in laboratory medicine for professionals from emerging nations. The 'Adopt a Professional' project described later in this newsletter is a good example
- Providing experienced laboratory medicine specialists who can act as one-to-one mentors for inexperienced professionals in emerging nations. Mentors are required to operate in a range of languages

'Wish lists' emerging nations:

Laboratory professionals in emerging nations are aware of the challenges that face them in improving the quality of the services that they provide but can become overwhelmed by the scale of those challenges. The FEN can facilitate discussions to help to define projects and their priority. Possible projects may include:

- Any of the projects listed in the previous paragraph

- Strategic planning to identify and prioritise needs into an action plan
- Improving communication among a defined group of professionals
- Planning and delivering a conference on a designated topic



The FEN Board is keen to hear of possible project proposals in either of the above categories. The FEN Board may be able to facilitate communication that enables project definition leading to a formal application to the FEN or to another grant awarding body. Please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors (chair@ifccfoundation.org) for discussion

3. Fundraising

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

Individuals may be interested in making a personal donation to the work of FEN and/or creating a legacy in favour of FEN in their Will. Organisations and corporate donors to the FEN are encouraged to discuss their donation and how it may be used and acknowledged. In all cases potential donors are invited to contact the Chair of the Board of Directors (chair@ifccfoundation.org) for discussion



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