



## *Foundation for Emerging Nations*

### **Annual Report for 2017**

#### **Introduction:**

The FEN is established under Swiss law as a non-profit making charitable trust, 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.

#### **Board of Directors:**

There are five members of the FEN Board of Directors

- Dr Graham H Beastall (UK) Chair
- Dr Michelle Rossier (CH)
- Prof Thomas Brinkmann (DE)
- Ms Lucia Monaco (IT)
- Prof Tomris Ozben (TR)

Biographies of the Board of Directors are available from [www.ifccfoundation.org](http://www.ifccfoundation.org)

#### **Board Meetings:**

During 2017 the Board met (by Skype) on four occasions (April, July, October and December). There was a high level of participation by Directors. Confirmed and signed Minutes of those meetings are available on request.

#### **Achievements:**

During 2017 the FEN achieved the following:

- Compliance with the Handelsregister des Kantons Schwyz and the Swiss Foundation Supervisory Authority
- Publication of the annual report for 2016
- Approval of audited accounts for 2016
- Operation of the FEN website [www.ifccfoundation.org](http://www.ifccfoundation.org)
- Publication of two newsletters
- Promotion of the FEN through various IFCC media outlets
- Liaison with the AACC Global
- Fundraising initiatives
- Support for and monitoring of four funded projects

#### **Completed Projects:**

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

'Lab Surfing' is a project designed and operated by the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS). 'Lab Surfing' is a website that connects YS from around the world and facilitates self-organised exchange programmes between YS trainees in laboratory medicine. Several hundred YS are engaged with 'Lab Surfing'. A report is on the FEN website. Details are available from [www.lab-surfing.com](http://www.lab-surfing.com)

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

The 'Adopt a Professional' programme is a collaboration between the FEN and the Società Italiana di Biochimica Clinica e Biologia Molecolare Clinica (SIBioC) to support training in laboratory medicine to scientists from designated emerging nations. Trainees are selected on merit to spend time training in an Italian centre of excellence. During 2017 two trainees participated in the 'Adopt a Professional' programme:

- From June to August Lumbani Phiri from Zambia trained in Palermo under the supervision of Prof. M. Ciaccio. A report is on the FEN website
- From December José Guillermo Pereira Brunelli from Paraguay trained in Rome under the supervision of Prof. S. Bernardini. A report is awaiting approval.

**Ongoing Projects:**

'Africa LabMed Radio':

The FEN supported the purchase of equipment to enable an internet radio station to be established for all countries in Africa. Interviews and news items will be archived. Young scientists have been recruited as reporters. The project will reach maturity in 2018.

Proficiency of malaria microscopists in Ethiopia:

The Ethiopian Public Health Institute has an ambitious programme to eliminate malaria from areas of the country. The proficiency of the microscopists who make the diagnosis requires improvement if this is to be achieved. The FEN is working with EPHI to develop training support for microscopists. The project will be implemented during 2018.

**Finances:**

The greatest challenge faced by the FEN during 2017 was raising funds to support the ongoing work of the Foundation.

Audited accounts for the year to 31st December 2017 are in preparation and will be available on request. In summary:

Income:

Starting balance at 1 January 2017	42932 CHF
Funds added during year	5222 CHF
Total	48154 CHF

Expenditure:

Operating costs	6375 CHF
Project support	31291 CHF
Total	37666 CHF

Closing balance 10488 CHF

**Acknowledgement:**

The FEN acknowledges expert administrative support from Ms Paola Bramati of IFCC.