



Newsletter: FEBRUARY 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 newsletter the Board of Directors issues a call for project applications; suggests ways in which partner organisations can work with FEN; reports on the first year of operation; and gives details of the fundraising process.

1. Next round of project applications:

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

31 March 2017

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.

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. The first year of FEN

The FEN Board has had a busy first year. Achievements include:

- Entry on to the Handelsregister des Kantons Schwyz. A copy of the registration certificate (in German) is available on the FEN website
- Approval of the Swiss Foundation Supervisory Authority and granting of tax-free status
- Appointment of the Seedamm Business Center AG in Pfaffikon, Switzerland as the formal address for the FEN
- Appointment of Ametis Revision Sàrl, Geneva as formal auditor for the FEN
- Establishment of a bank account with Credit Suisse, Geneva using start-up funding provided by IFCC
- Approval of the FEN business plan and fundraising strategy
- Creation of the FEN website www.ifccfoundation.org
- Launch of the FEN at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid
- Promotion of the FEN through various IFCC media outlets and through LabMedica International (English and Spanish versions)
- Publication and distribution of first FEN newsletter
- Funding approval for three projects:
 - Laboratory based surveillance for communicable disease in Malawi
 - 'Lab Surfing': A resource to facilitate global exchange between young scientists
 - 'Adopt a Professional': Collaboration to support the training of laboratory medicine specialists



Annual Report

Details of these achievements may be found in the FEN Annual Report for 2016, which is available on the FEN website www.ifccfoundation.org. Annual accounts for the first year of operation will also be posted on the website as soon as they have been through the formal audit process required under Swiss law

4. 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



Further details of the FEN are also available from: www.ifccfoundation.org