

Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine  
2017 Annual Report  
for the  
IFCC Scientific Division Meeting

The following annual report summarizes 2017 activities of the JCTLM.

**Governance:**

1. Dr. Anja Kessler (Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik) was appointed as the new representative from the IFCC to the JCTLM Executive Committee replacing Prof Lothar Siekmann.
2. Ms. Regina Robertson informed the Executive Committee that she will no longer serve as one of the two ILAC liaisons to the JCTLM Executive due to her expanding role as General Manager International at NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities), Australia. The Executive Committee thanked Ms. Robertson for her important contributions to the JCTLM and great work in support of the JCTLM from its start. Ms. Robertson is replaced by Ms. Martina Bednarova, Director, Czech Accreditation Institute Department for Medical Laboratories. Dr. Graham Jones will continue to also serve as ILAC liaison to the JCTLM Executive.
3. JCTLM Executive Committee Meetings were held as follows:
  - 11 June 2017 Athens, Greece in conjunction with the EuroMedLab Congress.
  - 7-8 December 2017 at BIPM

**JCTLM Membership:**

1. Progress with identifying potential JCTLM Executive Committee Organizations.

The JCTLM Executive Committee continued its efforts to engage the International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICSH) in collaborative programming activities in traceability. Dr. Myers met in December with representatives of ICSH, Dr. George Cembrowski and Dr. Bruce Davis to discuss plans for a potential joint meeting on traceability in hematology in 2018. As a result of these discussions a meeting of leaders from both organizations is planned for May 2018 at BIPM to discuss technical issues

related to developing a reference measurement procedure for RBC testing and administrative plans for further collaboration.

## 2. JCTLM Membership Applications

The Executive Committee approved the following applications in 2017 for JCTLM National and Regional Membership:

1. All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Metrological Service, Rosstandart [VNIIMS], Moscow
2. All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Optical and Physical Measurements, Rosstandart [VNIIOFI], Moscow

The Executive Committee approved the following applications in 2017 for JCTLM Stakeholder Membership:

1. Association for Quality Management in Laboratory Medicine [AQMLM], Birmingham
2. Birmingham Quality / UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme [BQ /UK NEQAS], Birmingham
3. Bio-Rad Laboratories [Bio-Rad], Irvine, United States
4. ECAT Foundation [ECAT], Voorschoten, Netherlands
5. Fujirebio Europe NV [FRE], Gent, Belgium
6. Maccura Biotechnology Co., Ltd. [Maccura], Chengdu, China
7. MedicalSystem Biotechnology Co., Ltd [MedicalSystem], Zhejiang , China
8. National Center for Clinical laboratories [NCCL], Beijing, China
9. R B Diagnostic Private Limited [RBDiagnostic], Kolkata , India
10. Roche Diagnostics [Roche], Indianapolis , United States
11. Shanghai Center for Clinical Laboratory [SCCL], Shanghai , China
12. Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics [Siemens DX], Tarrytown , United States
13. UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme for Leucocyte Immunophenotyping (UK NEQAS LI)
14. Vitamin D External Quality Assessment Scheme [DEQAS], London

## 3. JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' Meeting

The biennial JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' Meeting; Accurate Results for Patient Care Workshop, was held 4-5 December, 2017 at BIPM. 117 persons from 27 different countries attended the meeting. A copy of the program is attached to this report. Posters were accepted and displayed for the first time. A list of the posters presented is attached.

## **JCTLM Database:**

1. There were 79 nominations submitted by 30 May 2017 for the 2017 review cycle.
  - 46 certified reference materials
  - 11 reference measurement procedures
  - 22 reference measurement services provided by 4 reference laboratories
2. The Executive Committee appointed Professor Mauro Panteghini (CIRME) as Vice-Chair of the Database WG for Analyte Group 2 covering Blood Cell Counting and Typing, Coagulation Factors, Enzymes, Infectious Diseases, Nucleic Acids, and Proteins. He replaces Dr. Heinz Schimmel who stepped down as Vice-Chair due to other professional responsibilities. The Executive Committee recognized and thanked Dr. Schimmel for his important contribution as one of the founding members of the JCTLM WG, and for his continued participation as a leader and member of the JCTLM Review Teams.
3. The following nominations for JCTLM review team membership were approved:
  - Dr. Steven Westwood (BIPM) as new member of the Review Team for Drugs
  - Dr. Carolyn Burdette (NIST) as new member of the Review Team for Vitamins and micronutrients, and for Metabolites and Substrates.
  - Dr. John Toffaletti (Duke University Medical Center) as new member of the Review Team for Electrolytes and Blood Gases.
  - Dr. Bruce Davis (Bruce M Davis MD, Inc) as a new member of the Review Team for Blood Cell Counting and Typing.
  - Dr. Qinde Liu (HSA) appointed as the new leader of the Non-Peptide Hormones Review Team.
  - Dr. Milena Quaglia (LGC, Ltd) appointed as the new leader of the Proteins Review Team.
4. JCTLM Database Content  
As of March 2017, the JCTLM Database contains:
  - 293 available certified reference materials;
  - 184 reference measurement methods or procedures that represent about 80 different analytes in nine categories of analytes;
  - 161 reference measurement services delivered by 17 reference laboratories.
5. The JCTLM Database WG met on 6 December, 2017 at BIPM. Several Review Team leaders who could not attend joined the WG meeting via Web Ex.

## **JCTLM WG on Traceability Education and Promotion:**

The Working Group on Traceability Education and Promotion (WG-TEP) met on 5 December, 2017 at BIPM. The WG-TEP continues to make good progress with its original work streams (see below).

1. Definitions – This project entailed producing a list of the key terms relevant to traceability in laboratory medicine and their associated formal VIM 3 definitions (when applicable).

Lead – Robert Wielgosz: Status: Complete - The output of this work is available as a glossary on [www.jctlm.org](http://www.jctlm.org)

2. Mini-presentations – This project entailed producing a series of 10 presentations each addressing a specific topic related to a scientific concept that is part of traceability in laboratory medicine. Eight webinars are now published on the IFCC e-academy with direct links from [www.jctlm.org](http://www.jctlm.org) . The remaining two webinars (on commutability) will be published in 2018. The PowerPoint slides used in the webinars are freely available on [www.jctlm.org](http://www.jctlm.org) . Lead – Elvar Theodorsson: Status: Nearly Complete
3. Importance of traceability in laboratory medicine (TLM) to IVD manufacturers – This project involves raising awareness of JCTLM stakeholder membership among IVD manufacturers. Lead – David Armbruster: Status: Complete
4. Importance of TLM to Patients and the Public – The initial work of the group has been to define the target audience to raise awareness of TLM possibly through “Lab Tests Online” and social media. Presentations on this topic were given in Athens (June 2017), Durban (October 2017) and at the JCTLM Members’ and Stakeholders’ Meeting (December 2017). Lead – Graham Jones: Status: Ongoing
5. Global significance of TLM – A review article has been published in *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine*. “Traceability in laboratory medicine: a global driver for accurate results in patient care”. Beastall GH, Brouwer N, Quiroga S, Myers GL. Clin Chem Lab Med 2017; 55(8): 1100-1108. Lead – Graham Beastall: Status: Complete
6. Tools for promoting TLM – This project plans to develop a series of educational tools designed to promote the importance of TLM. Lead – Graham Beastall: Status: Ongoing
7. Involving TLM in meetings – This project has two main projects:
  - Raising the profile of TLM in national and international scientific meetings

#### JCTLM Symposia at Scientific Meetings

- EuroMedLab – Athens, Greece, 14 June, 2017  
Title: Traceability in laboratory medicine: what is it and why is it important?
  - A. Traceability in laboratory medicine: what every laboratory specialist should know. Gary Myers (USA)
  - B. Traceability and harmonisation - powerful tools for trueness of laboratory results. Elvar Theodorsson (Sweden)
  - C. Why traceability in laboratory medicine is important for patients. Graham Jones (Australia)
  - D. Traceability, education and promotion: getting the message out. Graham Beastall (UK)
- IFCC WorldLab Congress – Durban, South Africa, 24 October, 2017  
Title: Traceability in laboratory medicine: what is it and why is it important?
  - A. Traceability in laboratory medicine: what every laboratory specialist should know. Gary Myers (USA)

- B. Traceability and harmonisation - powerful tools for trueness of laboratory results. Elvar Theodorsson (Sweden)
- C. Traceability, education and promotion: getting the message out. Graham Beastall (UK)
- Organizing the JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' meeting

Lead – Graham Beastall and Tony Badrick: Status: Ongoing

8. WG-TEP website - The new JCTLM website was launched in early February 2017 as [www.jctlm.org](http://www.jctlm.org) . Regular news items are posted and the list of available resources is growing. Lead – Graham Beastall: Status: Ongoing

### **JCTLM Newsletter:**

This fourth issue of the Newsletter was released in March 2017 and can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.bipm.org/utis/common/pdf/JCTLM/JCTLM-Newsletter-2017.pdf>

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