



Foundation for Emerging Nations

Annual Report for 2016

Introduction:

The Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) was established under Swiss law as a non-profit making charitable trust, which was registered on 15th February 2016. The FEN 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.

This is the first annual report for the FEN, covering the period from establishment until the 31st December 2016.

Board of Directors:

The FEN was established with three Directors:

- Dr Graham H Beastall (UK) Chair
- Dr Michelle Rossier (CH)
- Prof Thomas Brinkmann (DE)

The Board appointed two further Directors:

- Ms Lucia Monaco (IT)
- Prof Tomris Ozben (TR)

The current five Directors have a good geographical distribution and varying backgrounds in laboratory medicine, education and fundraising. During 2016 two of the five Directors were active within the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Biographies for the Board of Directors are available on the FEN website www.ifccfoundation.org

Board Meetings:

During 2016 the Board met (by Skype) on four occasions (January, April, June and October). There was a high level of participation by Directors. Confirmed and signed Minutes of those meetings are available on request.

Achievements:

During its first year of operation the FEN achieved the following:

- 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
- Two calls for project proposals followed by assessment of the received proposals
- Funding approval for three projects (see below)
- Fundraising initiatives

Approved Project Proposals:

Laboratory based surveillance for communicable disease in Malawi:

The FEN 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. 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

'Lab Surfing' is a project designed by the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) and proposed by YS from Argentina, India and Nigeria. It will 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 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. Fundraising for the first trainees has been achieved and recruitment has commenced. The first trainees will enter the 'Adopt a Professional' project in 2017.

Finances:

Audited accounts for the year to 31st December 2016 are available on request. In summary:

<u>Income:</u>	
Start-up donation from IFCC	50000 CHF
Fundraising	<u>15013</u> CHF
Total	65013 CHF
 <u>Expenditure:</u>	
Cost of establishing FEN	11719 CHF
Project funded	9054 CHF
Operating costs	<u>1308</u> CHF
Total	22081 CHF
 <u>Balance</u> at 31/12/16	 42932 CHF

Conclusion:

In presenting this first annual report the Board Of Directors confirms that the governance of the FEN is sound. The Board believes that the FEN has had a positive year of achievement, which it intends to develop further during 2017.

Acknowledgement:

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

Signed on behalf of Board of Directors:

Chair

Date