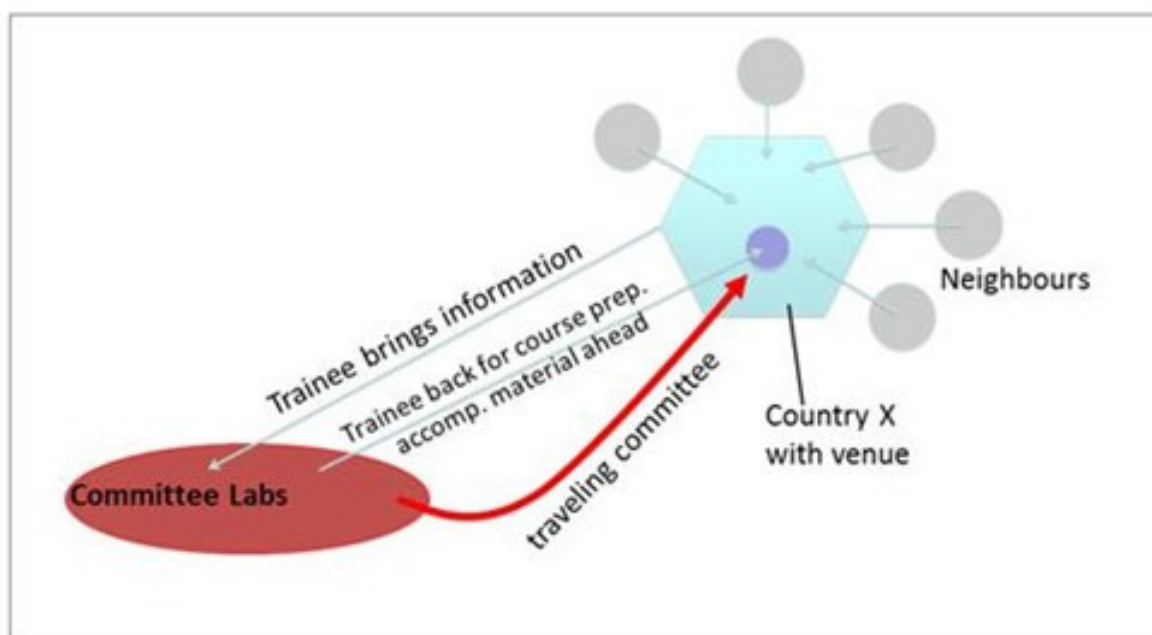


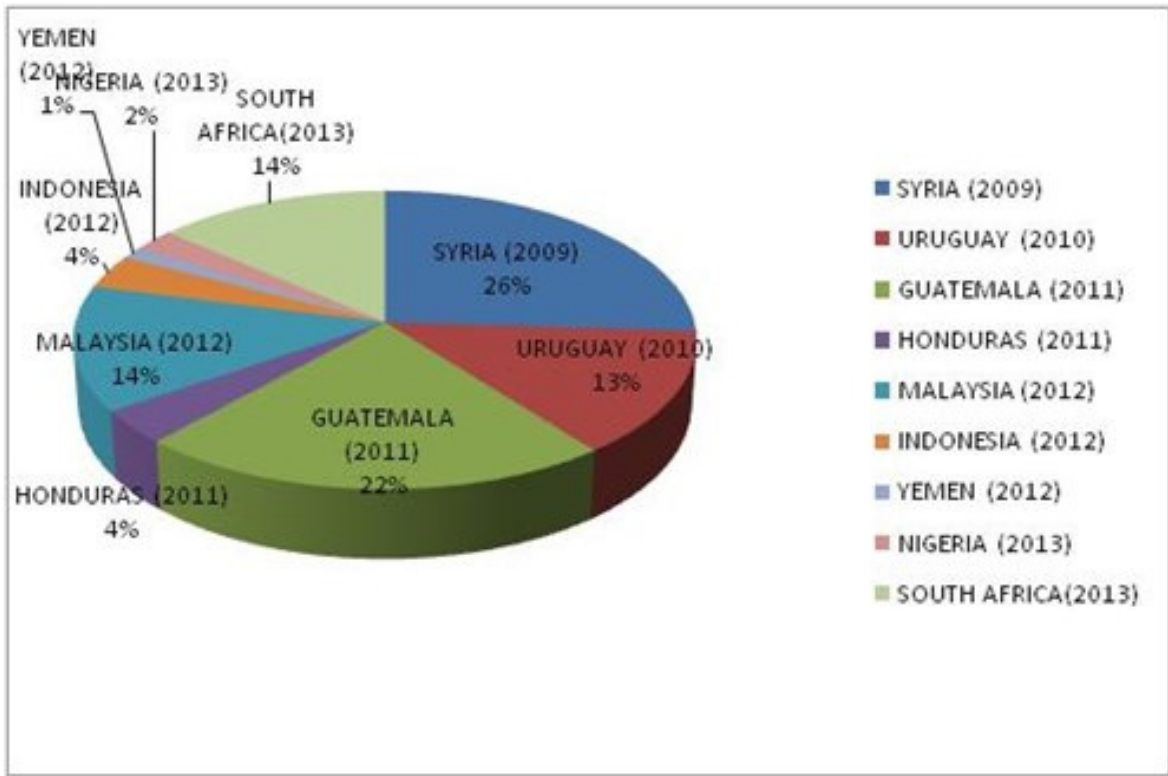
Clinical Molecular Biology Course and Curriculum

The IFCC Education and Management Division (EMD) contains a Committee on Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC). This committee has developed a curriculum and comprehensive hands-on laboratory training courses in basic diagnostic molecular biology techniques. These are intended to support laboratories in countries embarking on molecular diagnostics and have been offered since 2003.

Since 2009, the course has adopted the "lab-in-the-suitcase" principle (Figure 1) aiming to bring the molecular techniques to the participants' countries and perform them in their every-day working environments. The scheme includes that the hosting country sends a Trainee prior to the course to a C-CMBC central laboratory to become acquainted with all the laboratory techniques and protocols to be used during the course. After returning back to the Course venue-country, the trainee receives the lab-in-a-suitcase, a custom-made aluminium case on rollers packed with all necessary equipment. The trainee's task is to set up the laboratory prior to the C-CMBC tutors arrival, thus providing students with simple and robust equipment that is cheap to purchase and reliable to use in their real laboratory environment.



Since 2009, the C-CMBC course has been held in Syria, Uruguay, Guatemala, Malaysia and South Africa. These courses were attended by 81 participants from 9 countries (Figure 2). To warrant a high teacher-to-student ratio, registration to the courses was limited to a maximum of 16-20 students, and, where possible, the participants were selected to be disseminators of the newly acquired skills. Most participants are healthcare professionals, PhD and MSc holders, postgraduate students and lab technicians.



Details of the C-CMBC may be found at www.ifcc.org following the link to Education and Management.