

Republic of Ireland region

Annual General Meeting 23rd Feb 2024

Attendance: *Alison Bransfield (AB), *Janice Reeve (JR), *Brendan Byrne (BB), *Paula O'Shea (POS), *Carl Talbot (CT), *Roshaida Abdul Wahab (RAW), Karen Heverin (KH), Jennifer Brady (JB), Barbara MacNamara (BMac), David Green (DG), Eileen Byrne (EB), Peadar McGing (PMG), Graham Lee (GL)

*Committee members

1. **Apologies:** Micheál Ryan, Olwyn Lanigan
2. **Approval of 2023 minutes & matters arising:** Minutes for 2023 AGM (Attached – Appendix A) were approved with no matters arising. (Proposed AB, Seconded JB)
3. **Chairperson/Council representative's report:** AB read the chairperson/council representative's report (Attached – Appendix B). AB discussed the rebranding of the Association. The Republic of Ireland region report will be presented in September 2024. News will be circulated to members on the new National and Regional bursary strategy. (Proposed KH, Seconded PMG)
4. **Treasurer's report:** JR read a short treasurer report and highlighted that this account is to be closed once the name has been transferred to JR and AB. This money €1276.06 is to be moved to the centralised Lab Med account in the UK for ease (Attached - Appendix C). (Proposed KH, Seconded AB). *An error in the amount discussed was noted on compiling these minutes, the balance that should have been referred to was €948.62. This was highlighted to those present at the AGM via email 27.03.2024, apologies for this error (JR).*
5. **Regional tutor's report:** JR presented the regional tutor's report. It was highlighted that only two of the FRCPATH ACBI tutorial group participants were Lab Med Rol members (Attached - Appendix D). (Proposed CT, Seconded POS)
6. **Trainee representative's report:** CT presented the trainee representative's report - see attached (Attached - Appendix E). CT highlighted that all trainees have been very successful in their sittings of the FRCPATH examinations in 2023. (Proposed PMG, Seconded POS)
7. **Election of officers:** All Committee members were present. EB was elected as new Regional Representative to the Trainees' Committee. This position has a term of 3 years. (Proposed POS, Seconded KH). JR advised that a volunteer for the position of Regional Tutor will need to be sought prior to next year's AGM as this position must be vacated as per regional rules.
8. **AOB**
 - BB presented a short Audit Group report (Attached - Appendix F). BB thanked those members who had already completed the survey, and POS for her

advice to date on it. JB suggested that a reminder on the survey be sent to members to inform them that the deadline has been further extended and to clarify that its completion can be done in sections.

- PMG thanked CT, through his current position as Regional Representative to the Trainees' Committee, for his help organising content for the ACBI newsletter. PMG reminded those present that this newsletter is a joint venture with the Lab Med Rol region. It is produced quarterly with the next edition due in March. PMG encouraged this Committee to use this newsletter to highlight the benefits of Lab Med membership and as a forum for feedback from the wider Association.
- POS congratulated the Region for organising a great event.

Appendix A. 2023 AGM minutes

Republic of Ireland region Annual General Meeting 3rd Feb 2023

Attendance: *Alison Bransfield (AB), *Brendan Byrne (BB), *Karen Heverin (KH), *Jennifer Brady (JB), *Paula O'Shea (POS), *Carl Talbot (CT), Michéal Ryan (MR), Heloise Tarrant (HT), Barbara MacNamara (BMac), Ciara Cunning (CC), Seán Costelloe (SC)

*Committee members

1. **Apologies:** Janice Reeve, Peadar McGing
2. **Approval of 2022 minutes & matters arising:** Minutes for 2022 AGM (Attached – Appendix A) were approved with no matters arising. (Proposed HT, Seconded JB)
3. **Declaration of conflict of interest:** No conflicts of interest were declared by those present.
4. **Chairperson/Council representative's report:**
JB read the chairperson/council representative's report (Attached – Appendix B). JB highlighted the need to promote ACB membership within the region as there are currently 35 members in the region, of which Clinical Biochemists are majority. (Proposed CT, Seconded MR)
5. **Treasurer's report:** KH presented an update of the bank account and regional account held with the ACB. (Attached - Appendix C). KH reported a balance of €1261.06 in BOI bank account (fees @30th Dec of €15 not reflected in Dec statement. KH presented the ACB Rol regional account (sterling) – opening balance 1/1/22 £1152.31 and closing balance 31.12.22 of £1352.31 (Proposed CT, Seconded JB)
6. **Regional tutor's report:**

KH presented the regional tutor's report on behalf of JR (Attached - Appendix D).
(Proposed KH, Seconded JB)

- 7. Trainee representative's report:** CT presented the trainee representative's report - see attached (Appendix E).
- 8. Election of officers:** The following positions were elected: AB to contact all elected committee members to notify of successful appointment.
 - a. Secretary/Treasurer – Dr Ciara Cuning (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
 - b. Ordinary Member – Dr Roshaida Abdul Wahab (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
 - c. Chairperson – Alison Bransfield (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
- 9. AOB**
 - a. KH expressed sincere thanks to Mike Lester & colleagues at ACB head office for all the support received during her term.

Appendix B. Chairperson/Council representative's report

I attended two Council meetings virtually, 12th September and 05th December 2023

Organisation rebranding:

The major change in the organisation has been the rebranding from the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine to the Association for Laboratory Medicine. The rebranding is now complete and all regions have been asked to implement same. Where referring to the office it is now called LabMed.

Report to Council:

The reporting system has been changed, instead of every region reporting at every meeting two regions give in depth reports once per year. The Republic of Ireland region report will be presented in September. The report format has been greatly simplified and now has three sections, Alert, Advise and Assure.

Regional events strategy:

The regional events strategy has now been approved by Council. All events are handled through the LabMed office, whether the meeting is virtual or face to face. The office handles all payments and, for in person meetings, will arrange sponsorship towards venue hire, catering, *etc.*

National and regional bursary strategies:

These two strategies are currently going through Council and will be notified to members once fully approved. The association is very keen to use the full bursary amount each year, this does not roll over and is lost if not drawn down.

Many thanks to the committee members, Bren, Carl, Roshaida, Paula and especially Janice, for all their hard work putting together such a full and useful programme for the scientific meeting. Also thanks to the wider membership of the region for their involvement

Alison Bransfield, Region Chair 23/Feb/2024

Appendix C. Treasurer report

As a region of the Association we have a local euro account with Bank of Ireland (BOI). I am in the process of changing the account holder names on the account to myself and Alison Bransfield. The most recent bank statement we have on the account is from 20th December 2023 and is shown here, closing balance on 22 Sep 2023 was €948.62.

AB and I had a meeting with the Lab Med Accounts team earlier this week, 20th February 2024. Going forward the accounts will be managed centrally such that this euro BOI bank account is to be closed and the money in it transferred to the Lab Med Centralised bank account. The money we transfer will be allocated to our RoI region for spending. It has been agreed that this money will be used to fund an in-person event later in 2024 (TBC) or for regional bursaries for our members.

Your Current Account Statement				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction details</u>	<u>Payments - out</u>	<u>Payments - in</u>	<u>Balance</u>
23 Sep 2022	BALANCE FORWARD			1,276.06
30 Dec 2022	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		1,261.06
24 Mar 2023	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		1,246.06
08 May 2023	365 Online Karen He	267.34		978.72
23 Jun 2023	NOTIFIED FEES	15.10		963.62
22 Sep 2023	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		948.62

This is an eligible deposit under the Deposit Guarantee Scheme. For more information, please see the 'Deposit Guarantee Scheme - Depositor Information Sheet' which is available from your branch or on our website www.bankofireland.com/dgs

Prepared by Dr Janice Reeve, Lab Med Republic of Ireland Treasurer 22/02/2024.

Appendix D. Regional Tutor's report

In 2023, the Education, Training and Workforce (ETW) Committee met twice, Friday May 12th and Thursday November 30th via MS Teams. I attended the second Committee meeting virtually. Information pertinent to the training and education of Lab Med RoI members is considered as follows:

- Lab Med is making efforts to engage more with the members and champion the work being done to encourage more people to get involved at a local and national level in the organisation.



- LabMedUK24 is due to take place in Brighton from the 10-12th June 2024. The training day will take place on Monday 10th June and has been planned based on feedback from UKMedLab23. The UKMedLab23 training day involved 119 Biochemistry and 34 Microbiology delegates – there was an active joint session between the disciplines which received positive feedback. Sessions this year will include a joint interactive workshop (Biochemistry and Microbiology) on method evaluation/ verification with a more focused Biochemistry session on dynamic function testing.
- There was a reminder that Lab Med has no influence over RCPATH exam content and does not know in advance what will be on exam papers.
- A European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine Self Declaration was circulated in the last quarter of 2023.
- A pilot for The Laboratory Medicine Learning Academy blended online learning platform has been signed off. Learner registrations for the Academy are free and will open from 1st March. This phase will see the active development of educational material and best practices. There is more detail on this available through the website.
- Lab Med bursaries are available for members, uptake has been poor since the pandemic, Lab Med are keen for this to improve.
- Lab Med is working closely with the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) and the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) to highlight to the UK government that there is a lack of regulation in direct to consumer testing.
- Update from the RCPATH:
 - Dr Bernie Croal, previous President of the ACB, is now the new RCPATH President and FRCPath Chemistry Examinations Lead. Dr Kevin Deans is the new Chair of the FRCPath Biochemistry Examination Panel and Dr Ian Godber is the new Biochemistry Specialty Advisory Committee Chair.
 - Update to the Clinical Biochemistry Part 2 exam (project element) is still awaiting General Medical Council (GMC UK) approval.
 - Feedback received from those sitting RCPATH examinations and to be referred to the College included:
 - There was a lack of information/poor communication on the supplementary data available and provided on the OSPE exam
 - There was insufficient time to answer the OSPE questions.
 - Further clarification was needed on the calculation's element of exams.
 - Better consistency/standardisation was required between invigilators operating out of different examination rooms.
 - Better feedback from the College post-exam is required.

In the region:

In the RoI region there are no Clinical Scientist training (STP/HSST) posts. Any Clinical Biochemist preparing for FRCPath examinations in the region will be in a substantive post (Basic, Senior or Principal Grade). There are seven career grade Clinical Biochemists formally preparing for FRCPath examinations through the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) tutorial group, however, only two of these are Lab Med members. The Chemical Pathology trainee programme is managed separately and facilitated by the Faculty of

Pathology, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. One Chemical Pathology trainee is a Lab Med RoI member.

Annual assessments of the Clinical Biochemists participating in the ACBI FRCPath tutorial group were held via Zoom in October 2023. Assessors were made up of myself (Principal Clinical Biochemist, Lab Med RoI regional tutor), Ms Rachel Cullen (Principal Clinical Biochemist, ACBI representative) and as extern, Dr Jenny Hamilton (Consultant Clinical Scientist at Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Craigavon, Northern Ireland). All participants demonstrated dedication to sitting the exams and appropriate progression for their varied career stage. Their status as members of the ACBI tutorial group was retained.

Lab Med Republic of Ireland region members availed of the following meetings and educational events, both online and in person, in 2023:

- ACBI supported tutorials for career grade Clinical Biochemists formally registered to the FRCPath tutorial group. Tutorials are managed internally by the group participants and facilitated online due to the geographical spread of the group.
- ACB RoI region annual Scientific meeting, an online event, February 2023
- Trinity College Dublin, Bone Study Day, March 2023, Dublin Ireland
- Irish Society of Inherited Metabolic Disorders annual Spring conference, April 2023
- Radiometer POCT Conference, May 2023, Dublin, Ireland
- WorldLab Euromedlab Rome 25th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and 25th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, May 2023, Rome, Italy
- PALMSoc/ACSLM Study Day Interpretative Series / Blood Gases, June 2023, Dublin Ireland.
- ADLM Webinar on The Importance of Precision and Accuracy in HbA1x Measurement, August 2023
- IEQAS Annual Participants' Conference included clinical case presentations, update on ISO15189 standards and NT-ProBNP verification for national chronic disease management programme, October 2023, Dublin Ireland
- ACBI Annual Scientific Conference, included sessions on illicit drug testing and monitoring, lab testing in clinical nutrition, diabetes and endocrinology, October 2023, Dublin, Ireland
- 4th annual Hi Impact Critical Care Conference, Renal & Metabolic Critical Care, November 2023, Galway, Ireland
- GEM POC User group meeting, November 2023, Dublin, Ireland
- ACB South West and Wessex Virtual Scientific Meeting, November 2023
- UKNEQAS webinars (Focus on TOX and TDM scheme, Focus on Endocrine and Immunoassay, Focus on UKNEQAS scheme for Clinical Chemistry etc.)
- The MSc in Clinical Chemistry run out of University College Dublin is supported by, with much of the lecture content delivered by, Clinical Biochemists in Ireland. Many

and varied topics have been covered including CSF Xanthochromia, UKNEQAS Interpretative comments, Quality, Troponin methodology *etc.*

- EFLM live and on-demand webinars (Biomarkers of Sepsis, Coronary Artery Disease, Nutrition, Hepatic Fibrosis *etc.*)

Prepared by Dr Janice Reeve, Lab Med Republic of Ireland Regional Tutor 19/02/2024.

Appendix E. Trainee representative's report

The Trainee Group 2023 included 4 ACB members in whole time positions Lucille Kavanagh-Wright (LKW), Karen Haverin (KH), Micheal Ryan (MR), and Carl Talbot (CT). Two biochemists, KH and CT, have stepped away from the group following successful completion of their last RCPATH examination but are awaiting completion of projects.

All ACB Trainees have completed Part 1 examinations. LKW completed Module 2 part 2 in spring 2023. KH and CT completed part 2 module 1 in Spring 2023. KH and CT completed part 2 module 2 in Autumn 2023.

Individual trainees participated in a wide range of training, educational and scientific activities during the training period of Jan 2023 – Jan 2024

Training Activities

Tutorials to be organised and hosted by trainees in turn with trainees prepping questions in advance (to include part 1 and 2 style questions)

Training activities included FRCPath Tutorials hosted and organised by the ACBI, namely;

- Jan: GI Tract – (hosted by CT)
- Feb: Paediatrics (Hosted by MR)
- April: Electrolytes
- May: Atypical Fluids
- June: UKMEDLAB attendance
- August: Blood Gas analysis
- Sept: ACBI assessment
- Oct: ACBI conference attendance
- Jan: Liver

Educational Activities

Participation in the delivery of lectures and workshops for MSc. in Clinical and Diagnostic Biochemistry at University College Dublin (UCD).

Scientific Activities

Involved in ACB ROI virtual scientific meeting 2023 (CT) and chairing of session (CT)
Trainees were both delegates and active participants at the ACBI annual Conference 2023.
Members of the trainee group were involved in chairing a session (MR) and involved in poster displays.

MR presented case study at IEQAS conference

Organisation of ISIMD conference 2023

Attendance of residential training course in Durham (KH)

- **Other Webinars/Conferences/educational activities**

- IFCC webinars – inc Young scientist organised Endocrinology case study session
- ISIMD spring conference – Metabolic networks
- EFLM webinars – Biomarkers of sepsis
- Journal club
- Weekly MDT tutorials
- local grand rounds
- Gifford on line clinical cases

The trainee group would like to acknowledge and thank the ACBI Training Committee, and to all those who have taken the time to give tutorials and support to the trainees.

Prepared by Carl Talbot, Lab Med Republic of Ireland Regional Representative to the Trainees' Committee 23/02/2024.

Appendix E. Audit group report

The Republic of Ireland Region of the Association for Laboratory Medicine Audit Group, in conjunction with the ACBI have launched a local survey of Biochemistry Laboratories. The survey covers 6 topics in total, including Electrolyte interferences, Sample contamination issues, HIL indices, Ammonia issues, Macroanalytes / Macroprolactin, and Thyroglobulin monitoring. Each section should take approx. 5 minutes to complete. However, only one set of answers are required from each hospital, and the survey has been set up in such a way that 6 different people from the same lab can answer one section each. This has been done to limit the time commitment required from any one individual.

It is important that everyone who completes any component of the survey indicates which laboratory they are based in. This information will remain confidential but is required to ensure the same laboratory is not counted multiple times.

We thank those of you that have already completed the survey, and it will remain open for another week. We would greatly appreciate if members from hospitals who have not already done so, speak to their colleagues and organise 6 people to answer one section each.

Thanking you in advance



Brendan Byrne, on Behalf of The Association of Laboratory Medicine (RoI Region) Audit Group

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