



# IFBLS Strategic Plan 2022-26

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# IFBLS Strategic Plan

*The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) is an independent non-governmental association of national societies in 37 countries, representing more than 256 000 Biomedical Laboratory Scientists worldwide.*

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

## IFBLS World Congress

- The IFBLS Congress promotes excellence in Biomedical Laboratory Science

## WHO Collaboration

- IFBLS influences global health policies by providing expert opinion relating to Biomedical Laboratory Science

## Promote professional standards

- IFBLS provides guidelines and information support to Biomedical Laboratory Scientists and the community

## Education and professional development

- IFBLS provides opportunity for Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Work with WHO to promote Biomedical Laboratory Scientists' professional expertise and global contributions
- Deliver
  - WHO Meetings Reports and Follow Up
  - Contribute to Essential InVitro Diagnostic List (EDL)
  - Attend WHO Meetings
  - Communicate WHO policies to members and regions
  - Participate in WHO Regional Meetings
- Outcome
  - Replies submitted on standards for readers of rapid test
  - Contributions made to Standards for Glucose Meters, Rapid Syphilis Tests, Rapid Streptococcal A Tests and Rapid Cryptococcus Tests
  - Attended meetings virtually on EDL, Pandemic Preparedness
  - Contributions included in current revision of EDL on Kleihauer and 17 OH Progesterone
  - Attended virtual regional meetings
  - Reported on 2022-2024 workplan
  - Drafted 2025-2027 workplan
- Ongoing
  - Continued active engagement with WHO

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Work to ensure the profession of Biomedical Laboratory Science is recognized as a Scientific Profession globally
- Deliver
  - Work with ISCO to ensure we are recognised as a Profession under ICL Classification
  - Work with EPBS to ensure we are recognised as a Profession within Europe via ESCO and EU Regulated Professions Database
- Outcome
  - Worked with EPBS on recognition in Europe
  - Paper submitted.
    - Status hopeful
  - Reviewed ISCO Classification
    - Identified a title: Scientist Medical (2211)
  - Fellowship programme
    - Launch 2024
  - ESCO
    - Recognised as a Health Care Profession
- Ongoing
  - Statisticians meeting in October 2023
    - Work ongoing

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



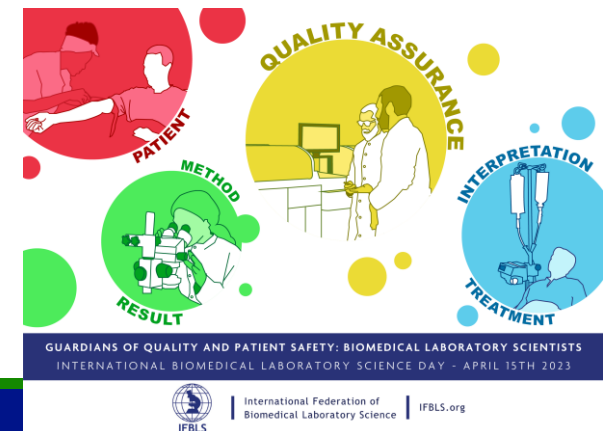
- Identify a strategic theme for Biomedical Laboratory Science Day and encourage its Celebration
- Deliver
  - Agree Theme
  - Prepare Marketing Material for Members
  - Prepare pre recorded message
  - Promoting BLS day to members and wider community

## • Outcome

- Guardians of Quality and Patient Safety: Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Letter to members
- Broadcast
- Same theme 2024
- Continued promotion with recorded messages

## • Ongoing

- New theme to be set for 2025-2026



## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Provide a forum for publication of scientific work in The International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science

- Deliver

- Ensure governance and sustainability of the IJBLS
- Promote publication by BLS
- Provide Editorial Content and Articles for publication

- Outcome

- Agreed roles and responsibilities for production team
- Met with Editorial Team
- Provided editorial
- 2 issues in 2023
- 2 Issues in 2024

- Ongoing

- Encourage Network of Experts to publish
- Consider award for 1<sup>st</sup> time author

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Invite members to give voice to their achievements and concerns.

### • Deliver

- CD Meetings and reports
- Open Forum
- Regional Forum

### • Outcome

- CD reports reviewed and contribute to Strategic Plan
- Inform Webinar series
- Open Forum output contributing to decisions on Congress
- New CD Report developed

### • Ongoing

- Set up virtual meeting with regions.

## Promote the Profession

- IFBLS is the global voice of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Use the website to inform support and promote the profession
- Utilize social media to raise professional profile
- Deliver
  - Review content to ensure it is current and vibrant
  - Promote member's National Meetings
  - Promote IFBLS Congress
  - Promote Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series
  - Decide on policy for Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Tictok etc
- Outcome
  - Development Committee reviewing Social Policy
  - Congress is promoted
  - Britta Karlsson programme is promoted
  - Members may request promotion of national meetings
    - List is maintained and up to date
- Approval of Social Policy
  - Appointment of social media manager
- Ongoing
  - Full website review



# IFBLS World Congress

- The IFBLS Congress promotes excellence in Biomedical Laboratory Science



- The World Congress will foster the professional development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists globally with specific emphasis on Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- Deliver
  - IFBLS Congress Guidelines stipulate that this activity is delivered
  - IFBLS supports the Host Association with advice on the Scientific Programme
  - Presentation by Biomedical Laboratory Scientists is encouraged at Plenary, Scientific and Poster Sessions
  - IFBLS may deliver focused workshops
  - Scientific Abstracts will be compiled into a supplement to the IJBLS
- Outcome
  - Revised congress guidelines provide clarity
  - Activity supported by Network of Experts
  - Members of IFBLS Board present in plenary session
  - New symposium format pilot
  - Plan to produce proceedings
- Ongoing
  - IFBLS is committed to supporting the Scientific content of Congress
  - IFBLS supports and promotes presentation through awards programme
  - IFBLS programme may include focused workshops
  - Supplement discussed with IJBLS Editorial Team

# IFBLS World Congress

- The IFBLS Congress promotes excellence in Biomedical Laboratory Science



- Promote excellence in scientific contributions
- Reward excellence and support participation through the IFBLS Awards programme
- Deliver
  - Abstracts for the Congress are subjected to a review board
  - IFBLS will support award winning Biomedical Laboratory Scientists to publish their presentations in IJBLS
  - Excellence is acknowledged through the Scientific Awards Programme

## • Outcome

- Abstracts are reviewed by scientific committee
- Awards programme in place

## • Ongoing

- Scientific Committee and Expert Panels to have more active role.
- Ensure judging of presentations and posters for awards is robust
- Scientific Committee will work with Editorial Board to bring scientists presentations to publication

## WHO Collaboration

- IFBLS influences global health policies by providing expert opinion relating to Biomedical Laboratory Science



- Continue our status as a Non-State Actor in official relations with WHO
- Deliver
  - Agree WHO IFBLS workplan, deliver on content and prepare annual report
  - Attend at and participate in WHO meetings with Non State Actors
- Outcome
  - Agreed work plan in place
  - Attended and participated in virtual meetings
    - Pandemic preparedness
    - Expanding EDL to medical devices
  - Attended and participated in virtual meetings
  - Workplan 2022-24 delivered
  - Workplan 2025-26 prepared
- Ongoing
  - Approval of workplan and retention of status

## WHO Collaboration

- IFBLS influences global health policies by providing expert opinion relating to Biomedical Laboratory Science



- Provide input for revision of WHO Guidelines related to Biomedical Laboratory Science and specifically the 'Essential List of in vitro Diagnostics'
- Deliver
  - Review and respond to requests for input into specific guidelines
  - Issue requests to IFBLS network of experts and advisory groups; collate response for submission
  - Contribute to WHO discussion on tests to be added to the EDL
- Outcome
  - Requests circulated to experts and replies compiled on:
    - Standards for readers of rapid test,
    - Standards for Glucose Meters,
    - Standards for Rapid Syphilis Tests
    - Standards for Rapid Streptococcal A Test
    - Standards for Rapid Cryptococcus Tests
  - Contributions published in current revision of EDL on Kleihauer and 17 OH Progesterone
- Ongoing
  - Continue to engage and contribute
  - Propose experts to sit on WHO SAGE
  - Review of Advisory Body and Expert panels

## WHO Collaboration

- IFBLS influences global health policies by providing expert opinion relating to Biomedical Laboratory Science



- Forge alliances with other health professional organisations in official relations with WHO
- Promote best practice of Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Deliver
  - Participate in and contribute to joint statements of Non State Actors
  - Ensure all contributions by IFBLS to WHO guidelines and the EDL reflect best practice
- Outcome
  - Engage with other NSA at virtual meetings.
  - Assist and support positions
    - Pandemic preparedness
    - Highlighting need for expert scientific practice not just POCT
  - Continue to engage with Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to negotiate agreement on pandemic preparedness
- Ongoing
  - Engage with Experts when making contributions

## Promote professional standards

- IFBLS provides guidelines and information support to Biomedical Laboratory Scientists and the community



- Promote the Code of Ethics in all aspects of our profession
- Promote adherence to ISO quality standards.
- Deliver
  - Prepare and promote a Code of Ethics which is responsive to change
  - Ensure all guidance and statements relating to quality and service provision reference ISO15189
- Outcome
  - Ethics policy in place
  - Guidance and Statements reference standards
- POCT Webinar delivered
- Ongoing
  - Ethics policy to be reviewed
  - POCT guidance to be reviewed with reference to standard
  - All guidance documents to be subject to review cycles

## Promote professional standards

- IFBLS provides guidelines and information support to Biomedical Laboratory Scientists and the community



- Maintain active Advisory groups in all areas of Biomedical Laboratory Science to provide advice and expert opinion to the Board and Members.
- Deliver
  - Maintain a database of Network of Expert and Advisory Groups
  - Engage with the Network of Expert and Advisory Groups in matters relating to production of position papers and input to WHO submissions
  - Engage with the Network of Expert and Advisory Groups seeking that they provide material for publication in the IJBL
- Outcome
  - Combine Network of Experts and Advisory Groups into single Scientific Network of Experts
    - More agile
- Ongoing
  - Create and maintain database
  - Encourage promotion of publication
  - Journal editors engaging with Experts

## Promote professional standards

- IFBLS provides guidelines and information support to Biomedical Laboratory Scientists and the community



- Develop and present position papers
- Deliver
  - Ensure our position papers are relevant and up to date
  - Develop position papers on current and emerging issues
  - Publish review articles on matters pertaining to Biomedical Laboratory Science and its practice in the IJBL

- Outcome
  - Editorial presentation in Journal highlighting and drawing position papers and guidance together
- Discussed use of AI in laboratories with WHO as part of next working plan
- Session on new Technologies at Symposium
- Ongoing
  - Schedule review of position papers
  - Engage with Experts
  - Consider paper on use of AI in clinical laboratories?
  - Proceedings of Symposium



## Education and professional development

- IFBLS provides opportunity for Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Develop and enhance publication of the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IJBLS)
- Deliver
  - Ensure governance and sustainability of the IJBLS
  - Promote publication by BLS
  - Provide Editorial Content and Articles for publication
  - Engage with the Network of Expert and Advisory Groups seeking that they provide material for publication in the IJBLS
- Outcome
  - Journal is continuing to publish 2 editions / year
    - Consider supplemental editions
  - Editorials published
  - Journal advertised in members publication
- Publish proceedings of Symposium
- Ongoing
  - Members to promote journal as a publication opportunity
  - Experts and editors to work with scientists to bring papers to publication
  - Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> time authors
  - Award winners to publish
  - Seeking publication of plenary papers and webinars

## Education and professional development

- IFBLS provides opportunity for Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- Promote the use of the Core Competencies Document in the education and training of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists
- Deliver
  - Publish document in IJBLS and on Web Page
  - Encourage members to incorporate into their National Documentation
  - Revise every 4-5 years to ensure it reflects current practice
- Outcome
  - Published on Web Page
  - Referenced in Editorial
- Ongoing
  - Discuss with developing countries to ensure it meets and supports their requirements
  - Add to document review cycle

## Education and professional development

- IFBLS provides opportunity for Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists



- The Britta Karlsson Legacy is used to support Continuous Professional Development of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists
- Deliver
  - Relaunch the Britta Karlsson Advancement Programme
  - Seek submissions from members to implement the Britta Karlsson Advancement Programme
  - Continue to develop and provide the Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series
  - Expand the reach of the Britta Karlsson Educational Webinar Series through use of digital platforms
- Outcome
  - Webinar series continues to be delivered successfully.
  - Additional Sessions in preparation
  - Extensive registration and attendance
    - Office workload
- Ongoing
  - Review of the programme ongoing
  - Consideration on how Virtual Platform can be used to
    - Record and rebroadcast webinars
    - Act as a source of revenue