

From: Prof. Philippe Gillery – Chair, Scientific Division
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Date: December 20th, 2019

Ref: Call for application – laboratory network in molecular diagnostics

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To: IFCC Full and Affiliate Societies' National Representatives

Dear Colleagues,

The IFCC Committee on Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD) has initialized the creation of networks of laboratories in the field of molecular diagnostics as so called "Molecular Diagnostic Centres" (MDCs). The C-MD is now inviting further applications from clinical laboratories performing molecular diagnostic tests that wish to be part of these networks. This IFCC network of MDCs will be led by a group of "Expert laboratories" and will also include "Network laboratories" that provide expertise in specific fields of molecular diagnostics. Thus, there are two levels of participation, where MDC Expert Laboratories will be engaged at a higher level (see below) and MDC Network Laboratories will comprise other laboratories interested in service provision in a given field of molecular diagnostics.

Terms of reference of the MDCs are as follows:

- To provide a point of contact for Molecular Diagnostic Laboratories in the analysis and/or interpretation of complex analytical/clinical scenarios.
- To participate in international studies involving the evaluation of new methodological approaches.

Briefly, MDC Expert Laboratories will have as an objective to act as a point of reference within a special area of interest within the IFCC MDC network. Laboratories may participate or show leadership in one or more of the following areas within a special area of interest (i.e. disease category):

- Offer expert advice on the conduct and interpretation of molecular diagnostic tests.
- Act as a point of reference for analysis of difficult samples.
- Provide help in assay optimization.
- Provision of control samples/characterized samples.
- Expertise on genotype/phenotype correlations.
- Participate in development of reference methods and evaluation of materials.
- Participate in evaluation of new methodologies.

Applications should be sent to the IFCC Office and must use the application form attached (containing more details on how to submit the application - <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-md/moleculardiagnosticcentresoftheifcc/>).

We are asking each National Society for their collaboration in order to distribute the call for applications to their members along with this cover letter. **Deadline for application is February 1st, 2020.**

We thank you for your collaboration,

Prof Philippe Gillery

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