



SCBL The Syndicate of Clinical Biology in Lebanon

The Syndicate of Clinical Biology in Lebanon (Syndicat des Biologistes du Liban, SDBL) was established in 1975, the same year that Lebanese civil war started. The syndicate was cofounded by six colleagues who were eager to improve the quality of services offered to patients:

E Gedeon, N Bustani, A K Chaban, A R Domiaty, R Naameh and F Ghorra. The main founding objectives were to strengthen the role of clinical pathologists as integral partners in the health care team, to defend their rights and to represent them on the legislative scene.

The Syndicate is an active organization with about 350 members. It plays a very effective role in keeping its members informed on the latest developments in the profession through running education programs, scientific seminars and meetings, scientific projects, as well as on professional affairs. It stresses on the importance of the role of Clinical pathologists as members of the general medical team providing the patient with the best quality of care.

Currently, the Syndicate executive committee is constituted of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and six members. The committee is elected every 2 years in a general assembly of all the members of the syndicate. The activities of the syndicate continued throughout the 30 years of the civil war although they were hindered by security and safety concerns as well as obstacles to communication (road blocks, minimal telephone coverage in the pre-internet age...). This is why, the post-war years marked the golden era of the syndicate where a major rebuilding campaign was launched encompassing everything from updating the records of syndicate members to the review and follow-up on a legislation that had become obsolete over the years. After finally waking up from its imposed sleep, the syndicate has indeed proven to have a major presence both internationally and locally to its members.

The Syndicate is an active member of the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), a founding member of the FIFBCML (Fédération Internationale Francophone de Biologie Clinique et de Médecine de Laboratoire which was established in 2007 and brings together several bodies from

different francophone countries) and a member of the AFBC (Arab Federation of Clinical Biology).

Besides local and regional seminars, the Syndicate has organized several large medical conferences. The first was held in 2003 and was in collaboration with the European "Groupe d'Etude sur l'Hémostase et la Thrombose (GEHT)". Several conferences have been held since and the 6th international conference is planned to be held in April of 2015.

Locally, SDBL has recently focused on the continuing medical education (CME) of its members based on a well- defined program set in collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Physicians and the Order of Pharmacists and legalized by the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon. In addition to this, the syndicate has long offered on-line library access to its members as well as continuous technical support including an external quality control program. To the same aim, the syndicate has also launched a university diploma program in collaboration with French universities and the University of the Holy Spirit Kaslik (USEK). The program aims to help implement and adopt the ISO 15 189 certification in all laboratories in Lebanon. Future programs to involve the young members of the syndicate are underway.

The other challenge of our Syndicate is helping members to adapt and encompass new technologies in laboratory testing through education programs and seminars. The SDBL participates in large epidemiological projects encompassing all laboratories in the country with both local bodies such as the Lebanese Epidemiological Association and



Christian Haddad, Marc Antoine Zablith and Adel Mastori from the Lebanese Syndicate of Clinical Biology with the executive bureau of the "Fédération Internationale Francophone de Biologie Clinique et Médecine de Laboratoire", 2007



Honoring one of the ancient members of the Syndicate Mrs Thérèse Jabre Ghorra (Lebanese Syndicate International Congress, october 2012)



international bodies such as the World Health Organization. These projects have had a major impact on policy-making.

Finally, the success of the Syndicate reflects the involvement of its members who all are volunteers, giving their time, knowledge and expertise, without counting. As long as this continues, laboratory medicine will stay at the very best edge of performance and quality in Lebanon.

Further informations on the Syndicate can be found at its website at <http://www.sdbl.org/>

This article was written by:
Dr Christian Haddad
President
Syndicate of Clinical Biology
Beirut, Lebanon

