

## **Proposal to move to a tiered membership model for the JCTLM**

**Background:** The Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM), established in 2002, maintains a third-party review process for reference materials, methods and measurement services for In vitro diagnostics (IVDs) and publishes these in a publicly consultable database. The database ([www.jctlmdb.org](http://www.jctlmdb.org)) is maintained by the BIPM in its role as the JCTLM Secretariat, updated annually, and currently contains 273 Materials; 251 Methods; 331 Services.

The JCTLM is a joint committee of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICSH) and the International Bureau of weights and Measures (BIPM).

A new version of the JCTLM database was published in 2022 at a cost of 130 000 Euro to the BIPM with an expected lifetime of 10 years. Voluntary funds received in 2023 and 2024 (80 000 Euro) have allowed the second phase of development of the database to start in 2025, for a web-based nomination and review process. Additional operating costs for the JCTLM Secretariat are BIPM staff costs for this function, amounting to between 100 000 euro and 130 000 euro per year.

The biennial JCTLM Stakeholder meetings costs are covered by registration fees, and also provide a small surplus that has been used for JCTLM database maintenance/development.

The BIPM and IFCC are sharing the cost for the JCTLM Secretariat, and since 2006 the IFCC has donated 50% of the running costs of the JCTLM Secretariat to the BIPM, equating to approximately 50 000 euro per year. In 2021, the IFCC formalized their donation with an agreement with the BIPM limiting support to 50 000 euro per year, with renewal or termination of the agreement at the end of 2023, and this was extended by a subsequent agreement to the end of 2026. The IFCC Executive Board has continued to express its support for the JCTLM, but equally expressed its wish to review its financial contributions for the activities of the Committee.

The JCTLM has a membership scheme that is without charge, and currently comprises of:

- 4 JCTLM Executive Committee Organizations
- 24 National/regional members
- 53 Stakeholder members (of which 16 IVD Manufacturers)

## **Development of a tiered membership model for JCTLM:**

The funding model for JCTLM activities was reviewed as part of the activities of the JCTLM Strategy Task Group, established in 2023. This included recommendations to establish a tiered membership model for JCTLM with fees for some categories.

A Task Group on the JCTLM Membership Model was established in 2024 and met twice in 2025 and developed a proposal for a tiered membership model. The model will be presented during the JCTLM

Stakeholder's meeting in December 2025, with a view to implementation from 1 January 2027.  
Members of the task group were: T. Özben (IFCC), T. Fawcett (ICSH), A. Griffin (ILAC), R. Wielgosz (BIPM), and assisted by A. Rohrer (BIPM).

### **The proposed tiered membership model**

The Task Group proposes the following tiered membership model for JCTLM, having considered both IFCC membership models and the financial rules of the BIPM:

- a) For national and regional members, the following annual fees and memberships would be available:
  - a) 1000 € for Member Status, with reductions for biennial meeting registration fees;
  - b) 0 € for Associate Member Status, with no reductions for biennial meeting registration fees;

(National and Regional members would be free to apply for either Member or Associate Member Status)

- b) For Stakeholder members, a sliding scale of annual membership fees would be applied based on annual turnover for IVD manufacturers' and the for-profit entities covered under groups 2.2 (Commercial entities related to the laboratory medicine involved in Electronics, Software development and Information Technologies, Digital Imaging Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Networking and Communications, Robotics, Automation) and 2.3 (Commercial Laboratories offering diagnostic services in the field of clinical laboratory science) in the IFCC scheme of membership. Fees would be as follows:
  - a) - Up to US \$ 3 M €1000
  - b) - Up to US \$ 20 M €2100
  - c) - Up to US \$ 100 M €3400
  - d) - Up to US \$ 400 M €3800
  - e) - Up to US \$ 600 M €4200
  - f) - More than US \$ 600 M €5000

With reductions for biennial meeting registration fees.

- c) For Stakeholder members of all other categories (Associations, Reference Labs, EQAS, Government Organizations, Standards Developers) the following annual fees and memberships would be available:
  - a) 1000 € for Member Status, with reductions for biennial meeting registration fees;
  - b) 0 € for Associate Member Status, with no reductions for biennial meeting registration fees(Stakeholder members of these categories would be free to apply for either Member or Associate Member Status)

### **Collection and use of funds**

Funds would be collected as annual subscriptions, with the forms describing what the subscriptions would be used for, with the following specific uses presented:

- JCTLM Database Maintenance Costs
- JCTLM Database development Costs (At around the rate of annual depreciation of current database)
- JCTLM Secretariat Operating Costs (above platforms covered by the BIPM and IFCC)
- In the event fund cannot be used for above needs (e.g. in case JCTLM activities stopped):  
Funds can be used for Laboratory Medicine Related Activity in BIPM Work Programme

Dr R. Wielgosz, JCTLM Executive Secretary