



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

Administrative Office
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Email: enquiries@ACB.org.uk
Website: www.ACB.org.uk

INFORMATION – BENEFITS – APPLICATION FORM

Founded in 1953, the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB) is one of the oldest such Associations in the world. It is a professional body dedicated to the practice and promotion of clinical science. The Association amended its name in May 2005 from Association of Clinical Biochemists and has medical and non-medical members in all major healthcare laboratories, in many university departments and in several commercial companies. The links with its Corporate Members leads to a fruitful relationship with the clinical diagnostics industry.

Honorary Officers 2011/2012

President:	Dr Michael Thomas
Past President	Dr Julian Barth
Director of Publications & Communications / Company Secretary:	Mrs Ruth Lapworth
Director of Finance:	Mr Terry Dyer
Director of Education, Training & Workforce:	Dr Frances Boa
Director of Scientific Affairs:	Dr Robert Hill
Director of Clinical Practice:	Dr Stuart Smellie
Director of Regulatory Affairs:	Mr Geoff Lester

- The Association liaises with and is consulted by many national and international organisations on issues relating to Clinical Biochemistry and/or Laboratory Medicine.
- A number of prestigious Awards for outstanding contributions to Clinical Biochemistry and/or Laboratory Medicine are available to both senior and junior members, and are in the gift of the Association.
- Travel Grants for attendance at meetings in the UK and elsewhere are also eligible to applicants after two years membership.

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The Organisation of the Association

ACB Council and Regional Activities

Council and its Executive Committee are responsible for policy, for communication with the Department of Health and NHS Executive and for liaison with a wide range of related bodies in the UK and Europe. Council comprises eight elected Honorary Officers, three National Council members and nine Regional Council members - one elected by each of the geographical Regions of the Association. The chairman of each of the following Committees, Trainees Committee, Immunology Professional Committee, Microbiology Professional Committee, Corporate Members' Committee and the Association's European Officer and a nominee of the Royal College of Pathologists plus a Lay representative are invited to attend Council meetings to contribute, without voting rights, to policy making and other business.

Scientific Affairs

Scientific activities are at the heart of the Association's work. The Scientific Committee commissions review articles on both clinical and analytical aspects of laboratory medicine, it monitors and advises on standards and quality issues and it helps to promote research and development within the clinical science through a scholarship award scheme.

Clinical Practice Section

The ACB Clinical Practice Section (CPS) was formed in 2005 and is centred around direct clinical care provided by the medical members of the ACB. It works through three divisions: Specialist Interests Division with specialist groups such as Cardiovascular Prevention or Nutrition, the Training Education and Academic Development Division and the Professional Affairs Division.

Education

Education and training are a major concern of the Association and it ensures that every trainee clinical biochemist, immunologist & microbiologist within the NHS receives proper training on approved courses of study. The Education Committee supports the promotion and delivery of training of Clinical Biochemists, Immunologists & Microbiologists at all stages of their careers through a co-ordinated programme of training courses, organising and monitoring in-service training (Continuous Professional Development-CPD) through a network of Regional Tutors. The Committee also monitors and co-ordinates manpower planning.

Immunology

Immunologists are represented within the ACB by the Immunology Professional Committee, which meets twice a year and represents immunologists on the various other ACB committees. Clinical Immunologists follow their own training program to obtain registration as a Clinical Scientist in Immunology and take the FRCPath exams in Immunology.

Microbiology

Microbiologists are represented within the ACB by the Microbiology Professional Committee, which meets twice a year and represents microbiologists on the various other ACB committees. Clinical Microbiologists follow their own training program to obtain registration as a Clinical Scientist in Microbiology and take the FRCPath exams in Microbiology.

Scientific Meetings

The National Meetings Committee organises the prestigious annual scientific conference and exhibition which is attended by well over 750 delegates. The National Meeting is complimented by an active and varied programme of scientific meetings at Regional level.

Publications

The Publications Committee is responsible for producing the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry (an internationally respected journal) and a colourful monthly 'ACB News' which keeps members and others concerned with science in medicine in touch with current matters of interest.

ACB Venture Publications, a publishing arm of the Association produces a series of books intended to create bridges between Clinical Biochemistry & Medicine and Management & Technology in Laboratory Medicine. Volumes include Calculations in Laboratory Science, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Laboratory Medicine, Nutrition & Laboratory Medicine, Diabetes & Laboratory Medicine, 'Neonatology and Clinical Biochemistry', and 'Intensive Care and Clinical Biochemistry', as well as major texts on Laboratory Accreditation and Statistics in the Laboratory. Other titles available are 'Primary Care and Laboratory Medicine' and 'The Association of Clinical Biochemists - The First Forty Years'. A selected series of publications from our US sister organisation the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) are also available at special ACB member's discounted prices.

Trainees

The Trainees Committee represents the interests of the training grades of Clinical Biochemists, Immunologists, Microbiologists by facilitating communication and providing feedback on training and other relevant issues.

Professional Affairs

The Federation of Clinical Scientists (FCS) is separate from the activities of Council and its standing committees. It represents ACB members in all trade union activities, is involved in pay negotiation for clinical scientists and provides support to individuals in matters of conditions of service. This service is also available to professionals in other branches of Clinical Science who may not have interests in biochemistry and includes sub-sections for clinical geneticists and microbiologists.

Membership Categories and Subscription Rates

Ordinary Membership (Voting Member)

Persons admitted as Ordinary Members shall be health professional with an interest in Clinical Biochemistry and/or Laboratory Medicine in the UK and Ireland. Admission to membership is at the discretion of Council and the decision of Council is final. Applications for admission to the Association shall be supported by two Ordinary Members of the Association to whom the candidate is personally known. Candidates shall be elected to membership of the Association by Council on advice of its Officers, but Council shall not change the conditions under which members shall be admitted without reference to a General Meeting of members. They shall receive the publications of the Association – ACB News, Annals of Clinical Biochemistry; applicable books published by Venture Publications and be able to attend meetings of the Association at member rates. They shall be eligible for election to Council.

Federation Membership

Persons admitted as Federation Members shall be engaged in the practice of laboratory medicine (other than Clinical Biochemistry since membership of the Federation is included in Ordinary Membership) or allied disciplines in the NHS e.g. cytogenetics. They must hold academic qualifications equivalent to those required for Ordinary Membership and wish to be represented by the Federation but for whom wider participation as Members of the Association is inappropriate. They shall receive the ACB News and be able to attend meetings of the Association at member rates. They shall not be eligible for election to Council. The Federation will not normally provide resources in support of a member's industrial relations case where the main substance of the case began before or within 90 days of the date of the written application for membership. At the discretion of the Officers appropriate advice will be offered.

Student Membership

Persons who are undergraduates or wholly grant-supported post graduate research students resident in the United Kingdom and who are not subject to UK income tax may at the discretion of Council be admitted as Student Members. Applications for admission to Student Membership shall be submitted in the same form as that for Ordinary Membership. Written application must be made at the beginning of each calendar year to renew membership with evidence that the applicant is still a student. Student Membership shall cease on 31st December in the year of completion of studies but on gaining permanent employment, the person may, at the discretion of Council, be admitted to Ordinary Membership. They shall receive the publications of the Association and be able to attend meetings of the Association at member rates. They shall not be eligible for election to Council.

Overseas Membership (Voting Member)

Members fulfilling the criteria for Ordinary membership (see above) but working overseas may be elected to membership at the discretion of Council. In addition to the application form and fees they must provide copies of certificates or other proofs of qualifications. They will receive the benefits of Ordinary members.

Subscription Rates (effective from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012)

- Members are encouraged to establish a Direct Debit (DD) for subscription payments to ensure uninterrupted continuity of membership benefits in the future. (Only available for UK sterling bank accounts). Otherwise a Sterling cheque drawn on UK bank must accompany the application.
- Ordinary Members paying the lowest subscription rate by DD may elect to pay in two equal instalments (January & July).
- Individuals joining October to December in any year, and paying by DD, will not pay their dues until January of the following year but will receive journals and other benefits immediately. Membership will then extend to the next December.

UK Membership (including members in the Republic of Ireland)

Ordinary	
Subs Band 1: AfC up to and including 6, SHO, Research Fellow	£125.00
Subs Band 2: AfC Band 7 & 8A, Specialist Registrar, Lecturer, Non-clinical Senior Lecturer	£165.00
Subs Band 3: AfC 8B & 8C, Reader	£209.00
Subs Band 4: AfC 8D & 9, Medical Consultants, Professor, Clinical Senior Lecturer	£232.00
Please note Ordinary membership subscription is based on salary level – all Republic of Ireland as well as Medical and Academic members will be charged on an equivalent level to those divisions depending on their basic salary. Please contact the ACB Office for clarification.	
Federation	£90.00
Student	£52.00

Overseas Membership

Ordinary	£172.00
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In order to encourage members to pay by direct debit which is a much more efficient method of payment those members who do use direct debit will receive a £5.00 discount on their subscription. (The ACB can only collect Direct Debits from Sterling accounts in the UK). There is a Credit Card surcharge for sterling account members of 5% but not for non-sterling account members.

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Application for Election to Membership

Please TYPE or PRINT USING BLOCK CAPITALS giving ALL the information requested.

I wish to apply for * **Ordinary / Federation / Student / Overseas** Membership of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and agree to abide by its Code of Practice, Constitution and Bylaws and to support its objectives. *(delete as necessary)

WORK DETAILS (published in Member's Handbook in June each year and on the members-only website database)					
Title	Prof / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other (specify)				
First Name (s)					
Last Name				Previous name:	
Designations <small>eg BSc PhD FRCPath</small>					
Work Address Department					
Hospital or Company					
Address line 3					
Address line 4					
CITY				County/State:	
Post Code				COUNTRY <small>(overseas only)</small>	
Phone-work				FAX-work	
Email					
MAILING DETAILS (private - only used on mailing labels for communications – enter if different to above)					
Mailing Address					
Address line 2					
CITY				County/State:	
Post Code				COUNTRY <small>(overseas only)</small>	
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS (for workforce planning)					
(Note <i>Clinical Scientist</i> and some other terms for Job Titles are now protected titles under UK law and can only be used by HPC registered personnel. Non-registered staff such as trainees should use alternative terms such as Pre Registrant Clinical Biochemists or similar as appropriate)					
Job Title					
HPC/GMC No. <small>or other Registration No.</small>	<small>(For UK and Ireland Members only)</small>				
Grade / AfC Band					
NHS Scale point					
Birth Date				Gender	Male/Female
Degree Qualifications	YEAR	QUALIFICATION	CLASS	SUBJECT	INSTITUTION
<small>(overseas applicants must enclose copies of certificates of listed degrees)</small>					
Membership of Other Professional Bodies:	Details are required of membership of professional bodies etc., with year of admission e.g. IBMS, ACC etc)				
TWO PROPOSERS <small>Please contact the Office if you need help locating proposers</small>					
We are members of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry with personal knowledge of the candidate to verify the above details and qualifications. We confirm eligibility for application at this category and wish to support his/her application for membership of the Association.					
NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS)	ACB MEMBER NUMBER	DATE	SIGNED		

The initial subscription covers the period until December 31st of the current year if received before September 1st. If received after August 31st the initial subscription covers the period until December 31st of the following year.

The ACB never shares member data with others for mailing or other purposes but occasionally uses its database to distribute postal information on behalf of its Corporate Members and other bodies allied to the profession. If you do not wish to receive such information please tick the box.

Notification of legal communications for the ACB and FCS, i.e. AGM and voting, will be by electronic means. If you wish to receive paper copies please tick the box.

Signature Date Fee Enclosed £.....

The completed form and Direct Debit Mandate or cheque made payable to the Association for Clinical Biochemistry, in pounds sterling drawn on a UK bank should be sent to:
The Association for Clinical Biochemistry, 130-132 Tooley Street, LONDON SE1 2TU, UK

