

**THE CYPRUS ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY DIRECTORS, BIOMEDICAL
AND CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS**

**NATIONAL REGISTER COMMITTEE FOR SPECIALISTS IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND
LABORATORY MEDICINE**

NRC-CC-LM

**The Cyprus National Register for Specialists in Clinical
Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

Establishment and Operation

Approved by the General Assembly of the Association

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1. INTRODUCTION

The absence of an **officially organized professional training programme** in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CC-LM), has been a serious problem for our country, with impact on the quality of provided health services, the certified professional education of scientists working in the field and the consolidation of their professional rights.

The Association of Clinical Laboratory Directors, Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists as a full member of the European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry (EC4) and after close collaboration with the EC4 Registration Commission, EC4RC (Budapest Meeting, 06-12-06) has decided to establish a **National Register for Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NRSCC-LM)**. This will be a **professional register**, on a **voluntary basis**, according to professional and scientific criteria that ensure **equivalence** with the corresponding Registers of the other member states of the European Union (EU), within the framework of the **European Register for Clinical Chemists**.

The National Register for Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will:

- Contribute to the improvement of the quality of laboratory results in CC-LM and as a consequence upgrade the public health services.
- Provide high standards of professional education and practice in CC-LM, equivalent to those of other EU countries.
- Certify each registrant's competence to practice CC-LM within the EU.
- Provide the possibility for each member to register in the European Register for Clinical Chemists. This registration will facilitate the free movement of scientists within the EU as well as strengthen our efforts towards the recognition of the specialty of clinical chemistry-laboratory medicine in our country.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER FOR SPECIALISTS IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

2.1. National Register Committee

Following the decision of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Association of Clinical Laboratory Directors, Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists (1st of February 2007) and with the support of the President of the EC4 Register Commission (EC4RC), Dr Simone Zerah, **a National Register Committee for Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NRC-CCLM)** was established in February 2007, consisting of the following members:

1. **Mr Charis Charilaou, BSc, MSc**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Association of Clinical Laboratory Directors, Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists and Director of Biomedical Laboratories.
2. **Dr Nicos Yiannoukas, BSc, PhD**, Director of Yiannoukas Medical Laboratories.
3. **Dr Anthi Drousiotou, BSc, PhD**, Head, Department of Biochemical Genetics, the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.
4. **Ms Sylva Tingiridou, BSc, MSc**, Director of Biocheck Clinical Laboratories.
5. **Ms Eleni Kyriakou, BSc, MSc**, Quality Control Manager, Department of Clinical Chemistry, Nicosia General Hospital.
6. **Dr Paul Costeas BSc, PhD**, Director, Molecular Haematology and Immunogenetics Centre, Karaiskakio Foundation.

2.2. Aims and objectives of the NRC-CCLM

1. Establishment of the basic criteria - minimum standards for registration in the National Register (presented below).
2. Achievement of equivalence of standards between the National Register and the European Register.
3. Working out a programme of professional education and training for young scientists in CC-LM.
4. Determining the minimum specifications and qualifications concerning the setting up of professional training in CC-LM.
5. Elaboration of the process and conditions for the renewal of registration (re-registration).

2.3. Initiation of the National Register

The National Register will start accepting applications on..... Applications for the Register must include a detailed CV.

3. REGISTRATION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

3.1. Basic criteria

For registration in the National Register the following criteria must be met:

1. University degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Science, Medicine, Pharmacy or other relevant field, recognized by the Cyprus Authority for Degree Equivalents.
2. A total of 9 years of university studies and professional training in CC-LM.
3. A minimum of four (4) years of **professional training** in CC-LM.
4. At application time, the candidate must be practicing clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine in a registered laboratory in Cyprus*.

* Any lab that deals with diagnostic processes within the wider domain of CC-LM in a health care providing setting.

3.2. Professional Post-graduate Training in CC-LM

3.2.1 Practical training

It is co-ordinated by the NRC-CCLM and it is carried out in Laboratory Training Centres that will be chosen and approved by the NRC-CCLM. Laboratory training lasts for a minimum of **4 years** and is organised according to pre-defined requirements, which are included in the **Professional training dossier (PTD) (Logbook)**. The PTD has been determined by the NRC-CCLM, based on the Syllabus and includes training in the basic laboratory procedures, i.e. in pre-analytical, analytical and post analytical procedures as well as in clinical evaluation of the results and laboratory management. During the training period, the PTD is checked when a certain part of the necessary training is completed, and so at the end of the training period it certifies the acquired professional training in CC-LM.

3.2.2 Educational programme

The educational programme will include:

A. A series of **18 seminars** in CC-LM, consistent with the Syllabus and co-ordinated by the NRC-CCLM. In order to assist the candidates, these seminars will also be available through the internet (e-learning). At the end of every seminar there will be a written test. The attendant is credited with 2 points for just attending a seminar and with an extra 4-8 points depending on the results of the written test.

B. An optional **independent project** on a topic relevant to CC-LM that will be credited with 10-15 points.

When the educational programme is completed a **Certificate of Competence** will be issued by the NRC-CCLM.

The necessary prerequisites for acquiring a Certificate of Competence are:

1. Proven attendance of at least 14 out of the 18 seminars of an educational series (78%).
2. A minimum of 90 acquired points (namely 50% of the maximum score).

3.3. Other categories

The following categories of professionals can also become members of the National Register of Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine:

1. Those who are Laboratory Directors according to the National Law N.132/88 and have been directing a laboratory in Cyprus for more than 20 years (those who have been directing a laboratory for less than 20 years can apply through the Transitional Provisions-see section 4.).
2. Those who are members of the European Registry of Clinical Chemists bearing the title of EurClinChem, and comply with the criterion 4 of paragraph 3.1.
3. Those who are members of National Registers of other EU countries, and comply with the basic criteria of paragraph 3.1.
4. Those who have been trained outside the EU and fulfill the basic criteria of paragraph 3.1 as well as the special requirements needed by the European Register (Guide to the Register).

3.4. Renewal of Registration (re-registration)

Registration is valid for **five (5) years**. The renewal of the registration is based on the assessment of the professional, educational and scientific status of the member, during these years. The process and the requirements of re-registration in the National Register will be announced shortly.

4. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The transitional provisions are valid for a period of twelve months from the time of opening the National Register without any possibility of extension or modification of this final date.

Those candidates who have completed up to the above date, 5 years of working in a clinical laboratory, are eligible to be evaluated with the transitional provisions based on the qualifications acquired by the above date.

Those candidates who have not completed, by the above date, 5 years of working in a clinical lab, will follow the procedures described in paragraph 3.1.1. (A and B) in order to get the necessary qualifications for registering.

4.1. Registration criteria under the Transitional Provisions

For the registration in the National Register by means of the transitional provisions the following requirements must be met:

1. University degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Science, Medicine, Pharmacy or other relevant field, recognized by the Cyprus Authority for Degree Equivalents.
2. At application time, the candidate must be practicing clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine in a registered laboratory in Cyprus*.
3. The candidate should comply with at least one of the following conditions:
 - a. Having at least 100 transitional provision units (TPU)
 - b. Possess a Certificate of Competence (see paragraph 3.1.1 B)

* Any lab that deals with diagnostic processes within the wider domain of CC-LM in a health care providing setting.

4.2. Registration based on transitional provision units (TPU)

For those who will get registered using the TPU it is necessary to get at least 100 TPU by the end of the transitional period using at least two of the following sources of TPU:

1. Professional experience (years of working experience)
2. Educational Activity
3. Scientific Activity

4.2.1 Professional experience

Each year of work experience **over and above** the prerequisite minimum of five years, corresponds to **4.5 TPU**. The resulting sum of units is multiplied by a special factor depending on the quality of the professional experience as described below:

- Experience acquired as Director of a clinical laboratory **Factor:1.2**
- Experience acquired in a clinical laboratory in a public or private hospital **Factor:1.0**
- Experience acquired in any other clinical laboratory **Factor:0.8**

4.2.2 Educational Activity

The following activities are credited with the following number of units:

Activity as a trainee:

1. Post-graduate studies in Cyprus or abroad in CC-LM leading to an MSc, that meet the minimum requirements of the Syllabus and are recognized by the Cyprus Authority for Degree Equivalents.
 - Two years of studies **40 TPU**
 - One year of studies **20 TPU**
2. Post-graduate studies in a field related to CC-LM in Cyprus or abroad and are recognized by the Cyprus Authority for Degree Equivalents. **5 TPU**
3. PhD Degree in a field related to CC-LM and recognized by the Cyprus Authority for Degree Equivalents. **25 TPU**

4. Participation in educational seminars organized by the Cyprus Association of Clinical Laboratory Directors, Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists or other seminars and courses on subjects relevant to CC-LM that are organized by recognized bodies (including those available on the internet), depending on their duration: **1-5 TPU**
5. An independent project on a topic relevant to CC-LM: **10-15 TPU**

Activity as an instructor:

Those candidates who act as instructors in official training centres for the training of medical doctors or scientists in laboratory medicine are credited with a total of **3 TPU**

4.2.3 Scientific Activity

1. Author or co-author of scientific books: **8TPU**
2. Author of a chapter in a scientific book: **5 TPU**
3. Author or co-author of scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals in subjects related to CC-LM: **4 TPU**
4. Lectures in round tables, symposia, seminars etc: **3 TPU**
5. Attendance at scientific congresses (**upper limit 10 units**): **1 TPU**
6. Presentations (oral or poster) in congresses (local or international) on subjects related to CC-LM: **2 TPU**
7. In charge of research programmes on subjects related to CC-LM or of programmes concerning the training of personnel in the Medical Services: **4 TPU**
8. Chairperson of a seminar or congress or any other scientific event: **4 TPU**