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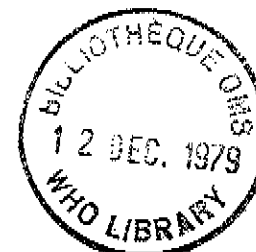
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COORDINATION OF QUALITY CONTROL ACTIVITIES:
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY STANDARDS

by

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The European Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (ECCLS) is a voluntary organization including members of health agencies, professional organizations, and industry. The Committee was officially inaugurated in Brighton (United Kingdom) in June 1979 in the presence of about seventy member organizations from fifteen European countries. It is now established with a provisional board of directors, an executive director, and has approximately ninety members. The aim of the ECCLS is:

- (1) to promote the development, evaluation, approval and implementation of European goals for clinical laboratory sciences by means of voluntary consensus standards to achieve and maintain national laboratory performance at levels consistent with the needs of patient care;
- (2) to maintain a forum for communication and mutual education among professional, governmental and industrial organizations concerned with the quality of clinical laboratory performance and the relationship of standards thereto;
- (3) to provide a mechanism for European, voluntary, clinical laboratory standards based upon consensus of all parties interested in the scope, provisions and use of such standards;
- (4) to cooperate with national and other international organizations in developing and approving clinical laboratory standards, promoting their use and evaluating the effectiveness of standards followed in practice.

The powerhouse of the ECCLS will be standing action committees with attached sub-committees and task forces to produce voluntary written standards, for example related to:

- (1) analytical procedures,
- (2) reference materials and methods,
- (3) quality control.

Work is at present in progress to define a priority list of standards related to these areas and the setting-up of sub-committees for such standards. Standards covering the theory and practice of intra- and inter-laboratory quality control schemes and performance advice will no doubt be placed on the priority list. The aim is to produce as soon as possible European standards in this field by using existing national documents and experience.

¹ The setting-up of a European Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. Clin. Chem. Clin. Biochem., 17: 269 (1979)

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