



Terms of Reference

Working group: Microbiology
(bacteriology, mycology, parasitology)

The purpose of this document is to clarify the terms of reference for the EQALM working group (WG) for Microbiology (bacteriology, mycology and parasitology).

The WG may focus on a particular speciality or on a specific topic. The working group must clearly define the area of interest, their aims, and objectives. The WG proposal should include specific objectives with associated timelines and must be approved by the Scientific Committee.

The EQALM Executive Board will appoint Chairs of WGs for a period of 3 years and this appointment is renewable once for a period of 3 years. Chair of WG may be issued from EQALM membership or third parties. The WG steering Committee consists of the chairperson of the WG and the project leaders. The Chair is responsible for the output of the WG and must report back to the Scientific Committee.

Tasks and purpose

To stimulate discussion and innovation and collaboration in EQA for bacteriology, mycology and parasitology around the world. In particular the WG will focus on:

- Extending the scope of microbiology EQA to focus special emphasis on laboratory knowledge and performance by monitoring examples including but not limited to:
 - (a) pre-examination processes - patient identification, rejection criteria,
 - (b) post examination processes - report content,
 - (c) para-examination processes – safety, training, competency assessment, handling of complaints
- To provide annual surveys to monitor subjects including but not limited to:
 - (a) Accreditation: awaiting the soon-to-be-available next version of ISO/IEC17043.
 - (b) Innovation in New Assays and Programs: Focus on EQA to monitor performance on new targets such as (but not limited to) Laboratory Safety.
 - (c) Public/Professional Awareness of EQA: Create a compendium of articles, manuscripts, books, published on the theme of Microbiology oriented EQA. EQALM could compile the list and ensure notification to members of the Microbiology WG on the publication of documents. Would be able to ensure a quarterly summary of documents and to the extent possible a citation contact, but not be able to serve as a clearing house to ensure sharing of PDFs or other copies
- Offer opportunities for interested persons to participate in meeting presentations.

WG Steering Committee

Michael A Noble (chair)
Sanjiv Rughooputh
Antoine Pierson

Members (additional)

Will be seeking prior to and at the next conference.

Current ongoing projects

Restarting.

No current projects.

Financial aspects

EQALM does not finance working group chairs or members. For specific and approved projects, the Executive Board can allocate financial support.

- Working group will develop its own surveys and notices. We will request EQALM support for sending out surveys and notices with no cost to the Working Group.

Selected EQALM Microbiology WG Publication list

Proficiency Testing Related publications those with (*) are previous EQALM related.

1. **K. Vernelen, M.A. Noble, L. Sourdeau, J.-C. Libeer**. External quality assessment in microbiology: a comparison between the results from Belgian and Canadian laboratories with regard to their ability to identify *S. pyogenes*. Accreditation and Quality Assurance. 13(9) 501-504. 2008 (*)
2. **Veronica Restelli, Robin Barteluk, Esther Kwok, Robert Rennie, CMPT Advisory Committee, Michael A. Noble**. Progress and Improvement for Identification of Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamases (ESBLs) through External Quality Assessment. EQAnews (1) 2-8. 2010. (*)
3. **Restelli V, Noble MA 2014**. Performance of Canadian clinical laboratories processing throat culture proficiency testing surveys", Accreditation and Quality Assurance. (2014) 19:445–450; (Published online: 15 October 2014) (*)
4. **Michael A Noble. 2015**. Clinical Microbiology Proficiency Testing program: Thirty-three years of evolution and progress. 5th International Proficiency Testing Conference (PTConf): Proceedings. (*)

5. **Noble MA, Rennie R** Combined International External Quality Assessment Results of Medical Laboratory Performance and Reporting of Samples with Known Antimicrobial Resistance. *Diagnosis (Berl)*. 2018 Jun 15. pii: /j/dx.ahead-of-print/dx-2018-0020/dx-2018-0020.xml. doi: 10.1515/dx-2018-0020. [Epub ahead of print] (*)

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