



## **Terms of Reference**

### **Working group: Infection Diagnostics**

The purpose of this document is to clarify the terms of reference for the EQALM working group (WG) for Infection Diagnostics.

*A WG is a set of EQALM members or third parties with an interest in a common project addressing scientific or educational external quality assessment (EQA) issues. 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**

Aim of EQALM:

- EQALM is an umbrella organization for European EQA organizers in laboratory medicine. EQALM provides a forum for cooperation and exchange of knowledge on quality-related matters, especially with regard to EQA programs in Europe.

Aim of the working group:

- forum for cooperation and exchange of knowledge on quality-related matters related to infection diagnostics with regard to EQA programs in Europe
- to address relevant questions and issues by performing projects

### **WG Steering Committee Members**

- Christoph Buchta (Oequasta, Austria)
- Oliver Donoso (Quality Control for Molecular Diagnostics (QCMD), U.K.)
- Damian Dubois (Centre Toulousain Contrôle qualité en Biologie clinique, France)
- Klaus-Peter Hunfeld (Instand, Germany)
- Monique Heusinkveld (SKML, the Netherlands)
- Martin Kammel (Instand Germany)
- Elaine McCulloch (Quality Control for Molecular Diagnostics (QCMD), U.K.)
- Lucy Perrone (Canadian Microbiol. Proficiency Testing Program (CMPT), Canada)
- Sanjiv Rughooputh (UK Neqas, U.K.)
- Jean-Pascal Siest (Biologie Prospective, France)
- Jaap van Hellemond (SKML, the Netherlands) & chair working group

## **Current ongoing projects**

- 1) Inventory of EQA schemes of EQALM members for the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases, with the aim to
  - a. detect omissions in portfolio (that can be exploited to develop international schemes for niche diagnostics)
  - b. collaboration and/or exchange of materials between EQA organisers
  - c. generate an overview of existing EQA schemes and their EQA design (potentially suitable for scientific publication)
  - d. harmonization of similar EQA schemes
- 2) Participate in ongoing project preparation plans for the rapid development of EQA for diagnostics in case of a new infectious disease pandemic

## **Financial aspects**

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

No finances are involved yet.

## **Publication list**

No publications since the recent restart of the WG in 2024.

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