



Terms of Reference

Working group: Virtual Microscopy

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

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

The main objective of the EQALM Virtual Microscopy Working Group is to promote the use of virtual microscopy in the EQA domain and to establish a collaboration framework for EQALM members. To support the objectives, the working group develops EQALM VM guidelines of VM EQA and educational schemes to establish a common basis for sharing survey results and expertise, comparing statistics, and organising joint surveys of EQALM members. EQALM VM Sharing Platform to implement the EQALM VM guidelines in a collaboration software, available and beneficial for all EQALM members. The development is a joint initiation with the University of Szeged.

The main benefits:

1. EQALM members having no VM solution can run VM surveys
2. EQALM members having existing VM solution can extend their services
3. EQALM members can share resources and expertise and support each other
4. Digital EQA can be standardised by the EQALM
5. EQALM VM image database and knowledgebase can be built
6. Foster EQALM cooperation with other scientific organisations
7. EQALM VM Image Database of digital slides/digital sample images which is shared by the EQALM VM Sharing Platform with the EQALM members.

WG Steering Committee Members

1. Brasil: Guimarães, André and Kneip, Fleury Marcus and Menezes, Maria Elizabeth (PNCQ)
2. Croatia: Jelena Vlastic Tanaskovic (CROQALM)
3. France: Albarède, Stéphanie (CTCB)
4. Germany: Bode, Anna and Gemein, Stefanie (DGKL RFB)
5. Hungary: Sárkány, Erika (QUALICONT)
6. Hungary: Juhos, István | Chair (University of Szeged and QUALICONT)
7. Italy: Pezzati, Paola (CRRVEQ c/o AOU Careggi)
8. The Netherlands: Van Hellemond, Jaap (Erasmus University and SKML)
9. Norway: Sandberg, Sverre (NOKLUS)
10. Portugal: Armandina, Miranda and Faria, Ana Paula (INSA PNAEQ)
11. Spain: Vives-Corróns, Joan-Lluís (University of Barcelona)
12. Switzerland: Albe, Xavier | Co-chair (CSCQ former representative)
13. UK: De La Salle, Barbara and Teuchert, Andrea (UK NEQAS)

Current ongoing projects

1. EQALM VM Sample Creation (Physical Sample Preparation and Scanning)
2. EQALM VM Sample Storage
3. EQALM VM Sample Database
4. EQALM VM Sharing Platform
5. EQALM VM EQA and Education Guidelines
6. EQALM VM Artificial Intelligence
7. EQALM VM Sharing Services

Financial aspects

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

Updated on 2025-02-12 by István Juhos and Xavier Albe