

Call for participation:

The 2011 WHO HPV LabNet Proficiency Study Of HPV DNA Typing

Accurate and internationally comparable HPV DNA detection and typing methodology is an essential component in the evaluation of HPV vaccines and in effective implementation and monitoring of HPV vaccination programs. The WHO Global HPV LabNet is a WHO initiative established to support the world-wide implementation of HPV vaccines through improved laboratory standardization and quality assurance of HPV testing and typing methods to promote international comparability of results. The major methods for achieving progress towards this goal are developing international biological standards as well as preparing and validating proficiency panels to qualify methods.

The WHO is now seeking international participation in an international WHO HPV DNA testing and typing proficiency study. Laboratories that are or will be involved in HPV surveillance and/or vaccine development are particularly welcome. Participant laboratories will be asked to perform HPV typing using one or more of their usual assays on the 43 challenges in this panel. This challenge is intended to evaluate assays that type HPV and is not appropriate for assays that detect HPV in general or grouped as high risk/low risk.

The challenge material will be composed of purified whole genomic plasmids of **HPV 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68a and 68b** in a background of human cellular DNA. The samples will be prepared to include single types and mixtures at varying concentrations that are traceable to establish or candidate International Standards to evaluate the sensitivity and type-specificity of detection. Three samples with cell suspensions will also be provided to allow evaluation of DNA extraction methods. Laboratories that have more than one assay are encouraged to provide results on each assay they commonly use. The challenge samples will be shipped with instructions for how to store the specimens, volume to test and coded forms to return results and assay description.

Participants in the proficiency study may be subjected to a participation fee:

Fee for commercial entities: 800 Euros

Fee for academic entities: 450 Euros

Participants from low and lower middle-income countries (World Bank classification with GNI (gross national income) per capita: <3 975 USD) can apply for waiving of fee.

The WHO HPV Global Reference Laboratory Sweden is organizing this study on behalf of WHO and the WHO HPV LabNet. The project is a collaboration with the Swedish external quality assurance provider EQUALIS, who is responsible for the management and distribution. Laboratories will be expected to return the results within **4 weeks** of specimen receipt. Data submitted will become the property of WHO, and may be analyzed for publication by the HPV LabNet either as an internal document or peer reviewed manuscript. All results will be handled in a coded anonymous fashion, with summaries grouped by method. WHO will ensure that the code linking data to originating laboratories will be kept

confidential. Laboratories that provide data within the required time-frame will receive a copy of their own results and the summary data.

Any laboratory interested in participation should fill in the **Application Form** (downloadable). Requests should be sent to the address below and must be received no later than the **15th of October 2011**. Laboratories will be notified of their enrolment, the date and mode of shipment of the panel.

Contact persons:

Participation, management and practical issues:

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Scientific issues:

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Laboratory details	
Delivery address of samples	
Department	
/Laboratory:	
Address:	
City:	Postal code:
Province/State:	Country:
Phone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Invoice address (if different from above)	
Department	
/Laboratory:	
Address	
City:	Postal code:
Province/State:	Country:
Principal Investigator	
First Name:	
Surname (Title):	
HPV DNA typing experience in your laboratory	
Methodology used (may be more than one)	
Annual number of HPV typing tests performed	
Brief description of involvement in HPV surveillance or HPV vaccine development	

Send this registration form, preferably by email or fax to:
 EQUALIS AB, Box 977, SE-751 09 Uppsala, Sweden. info@equalis.se. Fax: +46 18 69 31 46