A Roadmap to Establishing A National EQA Program

Wayne Dimech on behalf of NRL, Australia

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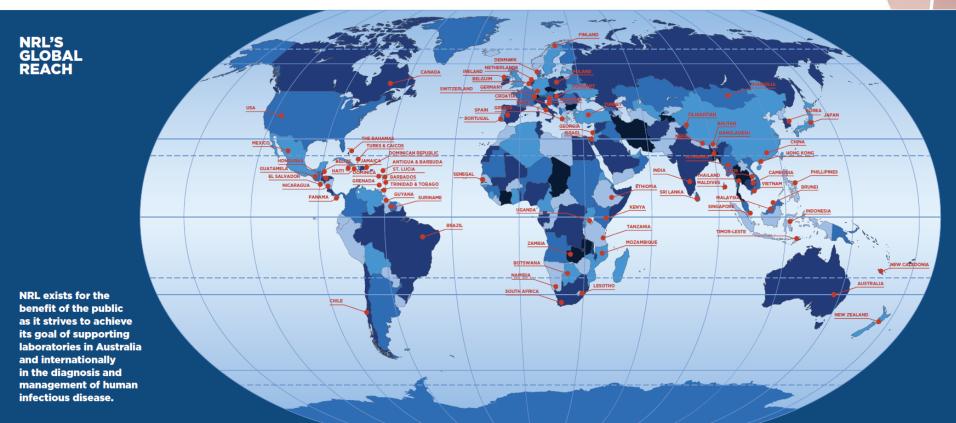
- Not-for-profit organisation that exists to support laboratories that perform testing for the diagnosis and management of human infectious disease
- WHO Collaborating Centre

Mission

To promote the quality of tests and testing for infectious diseases globally.



NRL Quality Assurance



2,000+ participants from 75 countries enrolled in NRL EQAS for infectious disease testing



NRL Laboratory Strengthening

- Funded by governments and NGOs
- Primarily in Asian region
- In collaboration and with support of MoH
- Step-wise approach
- Use mentorship and continual monitoring
- Aim for sustainability





Delivery of NRL EQAS Training





EQAS Training

Engage and gain support from MoH

- Develop agreement
 - Define expectations
- Facility assessment
 - Audit against checklist
 - Perform gap analysis
 - Gauge capacity
 - Conduct primary EQA theory training



EQAS Training

Over subsequent visits perform training in

- Sample repository
- Reference testing
- Sample homogeneity and stability
- EQAS design
- Standard operating procedures
- Logistics including IATA/UN3373
- Data collection and analysis including software
- Report writing
- Troubleshooting

Guiding Principles for Sustainability

- Highest level MoH support
- Work within countries' resources
- Facilitate long-term agreement
- Build relationships
- Work is a step-wise manner
- Establish quality systems
- Ultimately, train-the trainer



Challenges

- Short term contracts
- Access to samples in low endemic regions
- Changes in personnel
- Inappropriate individuals offered for training
- Inadequate resourcing
- Cost
- Unrealistic expectations
- Logistics
- Sample storage facilities

NRL Philosophy on EQA Participation

Top tier laboratories should

- enrol in international programmes
- be the national EQA provider
- use locally sourced samples
- provide training, troubleshooting and guidance
- report issues to regulator
- Lower level laboratories should
 - Participate in local EQA
 - Engage with top tier laboratory

Model for Consideration

- NRL has partnered with Oneworld Accuracy (1WA) since 2005
- Uses 1WA informatics OASYS for logistics, participant management, result collection and analysis and reporting
- 1WA acts as secretariat
- Collaborators have multiple options





EQA Roles

Secretariat



Provide Informatics



Procure Samples



Ship Samples to Members



Member (EQA Provider)



Provide Leadership



Make Samples



Ship Samples to Participants



Support Participants

Conclusions

- Quality comes at a cost
- EQAS implementation is complex
- Long term approach is required
- Build relationships and mentorship
- MoH involvement and support is preferred
- Ultimately, successful EQA providers can train other regions

