

Coronavirus Standards Working Group

Steering Committee Meeting Summary 27 March 2020

Thanks to all who were able to attend this 1st Steering Committee meeting -- we had more than 50 attendees from across the globe. Represented were professional societies, clinical and academic labs, government agencies, commercial assay makers, commercial standards producers, NGOs and international organizations.

The next meeting of the working group will be on Friday 3 April at 0800 PDT (same time as today).

Key follow-ups

This meeting summary and the [slides](#) presented at the meeting are available on a landing page [website](#) for updates and links for this working group.

There is a Slack workspace for this working group here: [coronavirus-standards-working-group](#). There are channels for the proposed subgroups. We can work asynchronously to get things done. If I had your email, you will be invited to join; all are welcome to join and invite others who might be interested.

We identified subgroups to make products and meet needs:

- Standards inventory
- Assay inventory
- Proficiency Testing Resources and Inventory
- Outreach
- Clinical Sample Repository

There was general assent to the WG charge that we work to support a “global interoperable COVID-19 testing enterprise.” Nobody identified another effort addressing this systematically (if you know of one, please let us know! Maybe we can work together?).

Discussion topics

- Gaps in the working group makeup (pharma and biomarker developers, for instance)
- Current activity review
 - availability of standard/control materials, variety of materials, and methods (materials design, virus inactivation) -- thanks Robin Temple-Smolkin and the list she developed on the AMP website
 - [Testing Resources for COVID-19](#)
 - the variety of materials in development, with discussion of technologies being used to create inactivated virus or package the nucleic acid sequences in COVID mimics
 - there is an imminent proficiency test to be conducted by INSTAND: contact Prof. i.R. Dr. Heinz Zeichhardt, Heinz.Zeichhardt@iqvd.de before 1200 CET Monday 30 March to participate
- The most pressing need identified for materials:
 - inactivated whole virus samples for proficiency testing
- Development of clinical sample repositories
 - initiated at CDC, though this may not be an open asset
 - in consideration at NIBSC, who have experience with this
 - a repository might include geographically diverse samples, to support assay development and evaluate assay performance across regions

Plans

- Form the working groups
- Create communications platform
 - [Slack Workspace](#): coronavirus-standards-working-group
- Inventory working groups to consider annotation of controls/standards/reference samples with a “Minimum Information Standard” format or checklist, that assures vital information is readily available and interpretable for each available material or assay.

Resources

- INSTAND Proficiency Test:
 - contact Prof. i.R. Dr. Heinz Zeichh Heinz.Zeichhardt@iqvd.de by 1200 CET Monday 30 March to participate -- [EQA Description](#)
- AMP web page with initial inventory:
 - [Testing Resources for COVID-19](#)