

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

JANUARY 23, 2018

The Committee met during the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation, Albuquerque, NM, on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 3:30 pm MST. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Present
Jim Brownfield, ESC (Laboratory)	Present
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Chair; Laboratory)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Absent
Craig Huff, ERA (PT Provider)	Present
Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (AB)	Absent
Reggie Morgan, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Donna Ruokenen, Microbac (Lab)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Present

2 – Introductions

The Committee Members introduced themselves and Nicole presented the list of Committee Members. Nicole then outlined the committee’s mission, objectives, decision making, and schedule of meetings.

3 – Accomplishments in 2017

The following accomplishments were described by Nicole:

- charter update;
- finalization of all PT volumes and modules of the 2016 standard;
- completion of two outstanding Standards Interpretation Requests (SIR);
- provided feedback to the CSDEC on the initial draft of the TNI Glossary of Terms;
- updated the PT sections of the Small Laboratory Handbook;
- updated the assessor checklist for the Laboratory PT Module (V1M1) in the 2016 standard;
- updated the NELAP technical review Checklist for the PT module of the Accreditation Body Volume (V2M2).

4 – Goals for 2018

The following committee goals were presented:

- preparation of a guidance document on Proficiency Test Reporting Limits (PTRLs);

- review of SIRs completed for the 2003 and 2009 standards to determine if they should (a) be incorporated/addressed in the 2016 standard, (b) require clarification in the 2016 standard, or (c) are still relevant to the 2003 or 2009 standards;
- present a training webinar on the 2016 standard;
- compare the Department of Defense and TNI PT requirements, and prepare a summary of differences for discussion;
- gather feedback on the 2016 standard after it has been implemented.

5 – Items to be Considered for the Next Round of Standards Development

Nicole said the committee would incorporate the new ISO 17011 and 17025 requirements, and would continue to gather new topics for consideration. Meanwhile, the following would be considered:

- PT frequency (during the Assessment Forum that morning, the audience was split 50/50 on whether to reduce the frequency to once per year);
- inclusion of preparation methods;
- additional radiochemistry requirements;
- standardization of Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing PTs;
- standardization of criteria and calculations used by PT Providers for verification, homogeneity and stability testing.

6 – Request for Feedback

Nicole asked the audience to read the standard for clarity and missing items.

7 – Closing Discussion

In response to a question, it was discussed how to treat a PT sample that is outside the normal concentration range run by the laboratory. It was suggested by Scott Hoatson that, if preparation methods are tested, a potential compromise would be just one PT per year.

7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm MST.