

## **TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

**August 6, 2013**

### **1. Roll call and approval of minutes: - get from Stacie**

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTP EC) meeting to order on August 6, 2013, at 1PM CT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 Executive Committee members present.

The meeting minutes for June and July 2013 were reviewed. Joe motioned to approve both sets of minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan and unanimously approved.

### **2. Committee Membership**

The committee is still looking for an AB representative. There will be additional openings in January 2014.

The committee was asked to elect a chair and vice-chair for the committee.

Eric nominated Stacie to continue as Chair of the PTP EC. Stacie accepted this nomination. Eric motioned that Stacie remain as Chair of the PTP EC. The motion was seconded by Andy. Stacie abstained from the voting process and the motion was approved unanimously by the committee.

Susan nominated Eric as Vice-Chair of the PTP EC. Eric accepted this nomination. Susan motioned that Eric be Vice-Chair of the PTP EC. The motion was seconded by Nicole. Eric abstained from the voting process and the motion was approved unanimously by the committee.

### **3. PTPA Evaluations**

Stacie reported that the PTPA evaluations have been completed. The next round of evaluations will occur within the next 2 years. The evaluation checklist will need to be updated before the next round of evaluations.

(See PowerPoint slides – Attachment E)

### **4. Committee Updates**

See Powerpoint Slides (Attachment E –PTP EC PPT).

### FoPT Updates

The NPW FoPT table was approved and was effective 7-1-13.

The Tin PTRL needs to be corrected due to a rounding error. This will be corrected and submitted to the PTP EC.

Drinking Water: Total Xylene and Total Cyanide updates need to be made to the table and submitted to the NELAP AC for approval. A 6 month effective date is being recommended.

The Protozoa FoPT table has been completed and needs to be posted. It will initially be posted as a TNI table, but not under any of TNI's programs.

### Chemistry

Eric's name needs to be removed from the PowerPoint slide.

The subcommittee is currently working on the SCM table. Carl described the process the subcommittee follows in their SOP to update limits.

If there are any significant changes made to the SCM FoPT table, the subcommittee will present them at the conference following the completion of the table.

Carl invited people to join and participate on this subcommittee. Joe Purdue expressed interest.

### Whole Effluent Toxicity:

Bob O'Brien needs to be removed from the subcommittee listing and Joe Purdue needs to be added.

The committee is currently concentrating on PT instructions.

Stacie reviewed the PowerPoint slides. Carl asked if there would be an exemption built in for endpoint hypothesis testing. Shawn Kassner noted that he agreed with dropping hypothesis endpoint testing. The PTP EC will work with the PT Expert committee to work on language.

A comment received from the floor was a concern that the labs doing this testing are not held to the same standard as chemistry labs. Stacie reminded the speaker that the focus here is PTs. Bob Wyeth noted that TNI would like to have a WET Expert Committee, but historically there have not been volunteers willing to do this.

### Microbiology:

The subcommittee does not recommend that strains be specified in the FoPT tables.

### Discussion:

Mitzi emphasized the food program does not look at strains, so this is consistent.

EPA has been made aware of the recommendation that strains not be specified. There were EPA representatives on the subcommittee.

Nicole made a motion to not specify strains in FoPT tables. The motion was seconded by Joe and unanimously approved.

### SOP Subcommittee Update

4-102 and 4-105 have been updated and approved. Patrick provides the link to the Policy Committee that reviews these SOPs.

### PT Program Position Paper

Focus of paper is on benefits to laboratories. The advocacy committee requested this information and provided a format that needed to be used.

There was positive response to the paper.

Andy will attend the Competency meeting tomorrow to provide information about this paper.

Pat made a motion to accept the position paper (Attachment D) and forward it to Carol Batterton (Advocacy Committee). The motion was seconded by Joe and unanimously approved. Stacie will forward the paper this evening.

## 5. PTPA Reports

### A2LA

See Powerpoint Slides (Attachment E).

There are some providers with 0% failure rates on some analytes. Kelly was concerned about this.

### ACLASS

See Powerpoint Slides (Attachment E).

Kelly noticed that there are differences in failure depending on concentration. This can be seen when comparing the WS vs. WP result for the same analyte.

The information provided by ACLASS made Eric think perhaps this information should be used to provide further updates to the FoPTs. Look at the problem analytes and focus there.

There is a subcommittee already put together to determine a method to evaluate the program. A subcommittee will also look at better ways to provide FoPT updates. This information may be helpful to both of these topics.

After Break:

#### Issues with the FoPT Tables and Sample Formulation

Susan Wyatt reemphasized that the current FoPT tables are really analyte lists because method/technology are not included.

Matt's review and observation of the data does not show a bimodal distribution issue. Kelly agreed, but it has been seen when looking at data during assessments.

Eric asked if providing more flexibility to determine a method is appropriate for a PT.

Shawn commented that labs have historically had problems with states requiring them to run PTs at inappropriate concentrations for specific methods. Providing language that gives ABs the ability to determine when a PT is inappropriate, gives more latitude to the agencies and gives labs some flexibility too.

Drinking water has to be done by method.

Susan Wyatt thinks the tables online should be noted to not meet the requirements of an FoPT table.

Pentachlorophenol – 625/8270 and 8151.

Shawn commented that there have been changes in the methods and technologies in labs, but the PT limits are still based on the old data. If multiple concentrations are needed, data would need to be developed.

Nicole noted that the tables need to be linked to the methods and technologies. What technologies was the FoPT intended for? Once this is done, we would need to look at gaps. Jennifer would be willing to help with this.

Nicole made a motion to create a subcommittee to tie FoPTs to the appropriate method/technology. The motion was seconded by Joe. Vote: 9 – For 0 – Against 1 –

Abstain (Carl – not sure he is comfortable with listing technologies and how this can happen.)

Discussion: It was asked whether there is any new language being developed in PT Expert that would also solve this issue? Are there other solutions or does the committee think this is an improvement to the PT Program? The comments from the committee were that this would be an improvement and the committee would like to investigate this through the subcommittee.

Stacie commented that this will not affect what is currently being done in the FoPT subcommittees. Stephen commented that it would be helpful for the subcommittee to decide which are the bigger issues and start there.

The subcommittee should discuss the need for starting to collect the preparation data now. This will likely require a call with providers to understand what is currently being collected, what is feasible, and what are they willing to do.

## 6. SOPs

The subcommittee has been working hard on the FoPT Table Management SOP.

Stacie walked everyone through the update and described overall changes and process.

Conclusions:

- Add a process for making a structural change to FoPT tables. Add a bullet to section 5.2: Changes to the table structure and content.
- Ilona will forward SOP 1-109 to Stacie, Nicole and Patrick.
- A new DRAFT of the SOP will be prepared by the subcommittee and sent to the PTP EC for final review.

## 7. New Business

None.

## 8. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be confirmed by e-mail the end of September.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm EST.

## Attachment A

### Participants

#### TNI

### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR <b>Present</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2010)  <b>Present</b>	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>
Justin Brown (2011)  <b>Present</b>	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 <a href="mailto:jbrown@emt.com">jbrown@emt.com</a>
Steve Gibson (2011)  <b>Absent</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 <a href="mailto:jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us">jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us</a>
Susan Butts (2012)  <b>Present</b>	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 <a href="mailto:buttsse@dhec.sc.gov">buttsse@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Carl Kircher (2010)  <b>Present</b>	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 <a href="mailto:carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us">carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us</a>
Patrick Brumfield (2012)  <b>Present</b>	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 <a href="mailto:Pat.Brumfield@sial.com">Pat.Brumfield@sial.com</a>
Michella Karapondo (2011)  <b>Absent</b>	USEPA	513-569-7141 <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Jennifer Loudon (2013)  <b>Present (phone)</b>	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	(908) 782-7453 x19 <a href="mailto:JLoudon@rtmua.com">JLoudon@rtmua.com</a>
Nicole Cairns (2012)  <b>Present</b>	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 <a href="mailto:nlc02@health.state.ny.us">nlc02@health.state.ny.us</a>
Joe Pardue (2011)  <b>Absent</b>	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 <a href="mailto:joe_pardue@charter.net">joe_pardue@charter.net</a>
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) <b>Present</b>	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	<a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a> 406-869-6254
OPEN	Looking for an AB.	

## Attachment B

### Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
165	Follow-up on need for NEFAP EC approval of the FSMO FoPT Table.	Eric	Next Meeting	4/18/13: Ilona – will ask NEFAP EC if they need to approve the Lead table.
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
196	Prepare final response to Complaint and forward to committee for approval.	Stacie	10-18-12	
205	Follow-up on membership candidates.	Stacie	6/19/13	In progress.
208	Work with Dan Hickman on any method code issues regarding Tin and Cyanide issues.	Stacie	8/6/13	
209	Distribute Protozoa FoPT Table to Committee.	Stacie	8/6/13	
210	Distribute final Analyte Addition SOP to Committee for review in San Antonio.	Stacie	8/6/13	
211	Send Position Paper to Carol Batterton.	Stacie	8/7/13	
212	Submit updated Table Management SOP to committee for review.	SOP Subcommittee	Next Meeting	
213	Update FoPT Subcommittee lists and give to Ilona for corrections on the website.	Stacie	Next Meeting	



	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	
215	Post final Protozoa FoPT table. Stacie sent to Ilona.	Stacie Ilona	Next Meeting	

**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12	PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations.	8-6-13	

## **Attachment D**

### **Proficiency Testing Program**

TNI believes the Proficiency Testing Program is an integral part of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), the National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP), and the TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Program (SSAS).

Proficiency Testing is a primary tool that is used to assist laboratories, a laboratory's clients, and accreditation bodies in evaluating a laboratory's performance.

Proficiency testing is critical to the TNI laboratory accreditation process because it provides an independent, objective evaluation of the data being created in laboratories and it serves as a periodic, cost effective check of laboratory performance in between onsite audits.

#### **Background**

Proficiency Testing (PT) is defined by TNI as a means of evaluating a laboratory's performance under controlled conditions relative to a given set of criteria through analysis of unknown samples provided by an external source. The TNI PT program consists of:

- A PT Expert Committee that establishes the requirements for proficiency testing.
- A PT Program Executive Committee who manages the implementation of the program.
- PT Provider Accreditors that accredit organizations as PT Providers.
- Private and public sector PT Providers that manufacture and provide PT samples and evaluate the results.
- Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPTs) - the matrices, analytes, concentration ranges, and acceptance limits adopted for the PT program.

The TNI Standard for PT Providers, Volume 3, is modeled after ISO/IEC 17043 "General Requirements for Proficiency Testing." TNI Standard Volume 4 is the requirements for a Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor. The Standard is based on ISO/IEC 17011:2004 "Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies." Successful participation in proficiency studies provides an external validation to a laboratory's internal quality assurance program.

#### **Benefits to Laboratories**

Participation in proficiency testing programs is one of the key activities performed by laboratories that comply with ISO/IEC 17025:2005. Proficiency testing is a significant component of a laboratory's quality assurance program.

The Proficiency Testing Program provides a laboratory with the following benefits:

- A demonstration and confirmation of ongoing competence
- An avenue for evaluation of new methods or technologies
- An ongoing evaluation of analytical processes
- Identification of testing problems
- A tool for identification of continuous improvement activities
- Education and training of laboratory analysts

- Increased confidence in the quality of a laboratory's performance
- Satisfying clients, regulators, and accreditation bodies

### *Confirming Competent Performance*

The Proficiency Testing Program provides a demonstration of confirmation of ongoing competence. The main purpose of proficiency testing is to assess the performance of the laboratory for a particular test that laboratory performs. The Proficiency Testing Program provides an opportunity for a lab to have an independent appraisal of a laboratory's results against acceptance criteria generated by the Program. The results obtained either confirm a laboratory's satisfactory performance or identify the need for an investigation into a failure.

### *Initial and Ongoing evaluation of the analytical process*

The results obtained from a single PT study provide only a snapshot in time of the lab's performance. However, that information can be used to evaluate the analytical process at the time the PT was analyzed. It can provide a confirmation of the laboratory's ability to adequately perform an analysis using a new method or technology. The Proficiency Testing Program requirements for periodic ongoing PT analysis also provide the laboratory with a tool for continuous monitoring of an analytical process.

### *Identification of testing problems*

When a laboratory's results obtained indicate that its data is not comparable to the performance criteria of the PT study, this indicates the need for an investigation into the failure. Upon failure of the PT sample, the laboratory initiates a root cause investigation to look for the potential sources of error. Once the root cause investigation is complete, the laboratory initiates the necessary corrective action(s) to address the root cause(s). Without participation in the Proficiency Testing Program, poor performance of the method by the laboratory may have remained undetected. The Proficiency Testing Program helps to prevent poor method performance from going unchecked for an extended period of time.

### *Continuous Improvement*

Participation in a PT Program study can be used as a resource to investigate a method and identify areas for improvement. The PT can provide an avenue for determining the modifications to procedure or equipment that would be necessary to improve a method's performance.

### *Education and training of analysts*

Participation in the PT Program provides a source for education and training of analysts. The results of a PT study can be used to document an analyst's proficiency with a method.

### *Increased confidence in the quality of a laboratory's performance*

Successful performance in a proficiency test can provide various parties with additional confidence in the ability of the laboratory to perform a method. The laboratory staff performing the PT analysis, as well as the laboratory management, can be reassured by a successful outcome. PT participation and results provided to clients can also provide increased client confidence in the capabilities and quality of a laboratory. Clients may also use laboratory participation and results obtained in a PT Program as a measuring stick between laboratories.

### **Benefits to Regulators and Accreditation Bodies**

Successful participation in proficiency studies provides regulators and accreditation bodies with a cost effective assessment tool for periodically monitoring the laboratory's competence in performing a method. It can provide regulators and accreditation bodies with a level of confidence in the laboratory whose data they recognize.

### **Conclusion**

The TNI Proficiency Testing Program provides numerous benefits to the laboratory, the clients of a laboratory, and to regulators and accreditation bodies. The TNI Proficiency Testing Program plays a vital and key role within the TNI organization.

### **Resources**

**"Educational Aspects of Proficiency Testing Programs"** by Dan Wruck and Ingrid Flemming, 2007

**"Benefits for Laboratories participating in Proficiency Testing Programs"** by ILAC, 2008.

## **Attachment E**





## TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Tuesday, August 6, 2013



Presented by: The PTP Executive Committee

Session Chair: Stacie Metzler





## Session Agenda

- Committee Business
- Committee Accomplishments
- Fields of Proficiency Testing Updates
- Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor Updates
- Proficiency Testing Program Position Paper
- Updated SOP Presentations
- PT Program Concerns and Other Discussion




## Committee Overview

- Purpose: To establish and maintain a national PT Program to support a national environmental accreditation program.
- Full Committee Conference Calls the Third Thursday of each month
  - Chemical and Solid Waste FoPT Subcommittee
  - Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee
  - WET FoPT Subcommittee
  - SOP Subcommittee




## Committee Business

- Approval of Minutes
  - June
  - July
- Membership
  - Current Vacancy for Accreditation Body Representative
    - Other vacancies at the end of 2013
  - Nominations for Committee Chair and Vice-chair
    - Term effective January 2014




## PTP Executive Committee


- Committee Members
  - Stacie Metzler, Chair- HRSD
  - Eric Smith, Past Chair – TestAmerica, Inc
  - Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator- TNI
  - Justin Brown- Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.
  - Susan Butts- South Carolina DHEC
  - Patrick Brumfield- Sigma- Aldrich RTC
  - Nicole Cairns- NY State DOH
  - Steve Gibson – Texas Comm. on Environmental Quality
  - Michella Karaondo – US EPA OGWDW
  - Carl Kircher - Florida DOH
  - Joe Pardue – Pro2Serve, Inc.
  - Andy Valkenburg – Energy Laboratories, Inc
- Many Associate members representing PT providers, ABS, Labs, and others



## Accomplishments


- PTPA Re-evaluations- every two years
  - A2LA Completed Fall 2012 (Stacie Metzler and Susan Butts)
  - A-Class Completed Early 2013 (Stacie Metzler and Ilona Taunton)
- Key Elements
  - PTPA submits application packet including completion of the TNI checklist
  - Assessment Team completes documentation review
  - On-site visit to PTPA offices to review systems
  - On-site shadowing of a PT Provider on-site assessment







### FoPT Table Updates

- Non- Potable Water- Effective July 1, 2013.
  - Update in the next couple of months- Tin PTRL Correction
- Drinking Water- minor updates pending
  - Add a footnote to state all three isomers of xylenes must be included in formulation
  - Change "Total Cyanide" to Cyanide
    - ✦ Talk to IT Committee to see if new codes need to be developed





### FoPT Table Updates

- Protozoa- table has been completed
  - Approved by the PTPEC
  - Meeting in Denver covering aspects of implementation
  - Working out final details for posting on TNI Website
  - Decisions for posting as a NELAP FoPT Table or Non-NELAP FoPT Table
    - ✦ PT Provider accreditation by PTPA





### FoPT Subcommittee Updates

- Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:
  - Carl Kircher (chair)
  - Stephen Arpie
  - Dan Dickinson
  - Stacey Fry
  - Jeff Lowry
  - Jim Morotti
  - Eric Smith





### FoPT Subcommittee Updates

- Chemistry- cont.
  - Solid and Chemical Materials table review
  - Evaluated potential changes for settleable solids
  - Worked on Cyanide nomenclature for drinking water
  - Reviewed and corrected calculation for Tin on NPW table




### Subcommittee Updates

- WET FoPT Subcommittee:
  - Naddy Rami (Chair)
  - Ginger Briggs
  - Pete De Lisle
  - Robert Kelly
  - Jamie Mitchell
  - Jeff Lowry
  - Faust Parker
  - Chris Pasch
  - Brian Krausz
  - Steven Rewa
  - Teresa Norberg-King
  - Jennifer Loudon




### FoPT Subcommittee Updates

- Whole Effluent Toxicity- cont.
  - Considering a recommendation to combine the datasets for dilute mineral water (DMW) and reconstituted freshwater prepared from salts (MHSF) for all WET PTs.
  - Considering including blank samples (i.e., non-toxic samples) in the WET PT program.
  - Reviewing the WET PT instructions provided to laboratories for each method to ensure consistency. Anticipate providing recommendations to improve consistency and ensure accuracy.









## FoPT Subcommittee Updates



- Whole Effluent Toxicity cont.
  - Planning to make a recommendation to drop the hypothesis test endpoint (NOEC) from chronic WET PT reporting and include only point estimates (i.e., IC25 values).
    - ✦ This would make the reporting similar to the acute WET PT reporting
    - ✦ International (e.g., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD) organizations are also moving toward point estimates and away from traditional hypothesis test endpoints.

## Micro FoPT Subcommittee



Members:

- Chair – Susan Butts, South Carolina DHEC (PTPEC)
- Jennifer Best – USEPA
- Mike Blades – ERA
- Bennie Cockerel – South Carolina DHEC
- Carol Haines – USEPA
- Andy Lincoff – USEPA
- Jennifer Loudon – Raritan Township Municipal Util. Auth. (PTPEC)
- Jeff Lowry – Phenova Inc.
- Stacie Metzler – Hampton Roads Sanitation District (PTPEC)
- Viola Reynolds – USEPA
- Patsy Root – IDEXX Laboratories
- Chris Rucinski – RTC
- Andy Valkenburg – Energy Laboratories (PTPEC)

## Micro FoPT Subcommittee



- Participated in three calls since the Denver meeting
- Two items tasked by the PTPEC
  - 1) Determining preparation ranges for qualitative microbiology FoPTs
  - 2) Evaluate performance of strains currently in use

## Micro FoPT Subcommittee Scope Item #1



**Determining preparation ranges for qualitative microbiology FoPTs:**

Currently, there are a wide range of concentrations used in qualitative microbiology PT. These concentrations must be meaningful to reflect a laboratory's performance, and meet the requirements of regulatory programs. The subcommittee should gather input from ABs, EPA along with PT provider data to determine the appropriate concentration ranges for use in qualitative microbiology PTs.

## Micro FoPT Subcommittee Scope Item #1


- Subcommittee is still working on this and in the process of gathering data
- Enumeration range is 20-200 CFU(MPN)/100mL for *E. coli*, total and fecal coliform
- Other bacteria (total coliform negative, total coliform positive, fecal and *E. coli* negative) are not enumerated, what ranges are being used?
- Plan to collect data from PT providers for each type of bacteria used in each P/A PT; made-to-values from the last 10 studies; methods used to determine the values.





## Micro FoPT Subcommittee Scope Item #2

**Evaluate performance of strains currently in use**



Strains of bacteria used to manufacture PT samples are not specified on the FoPT tables, but must perform appropriately in each approved method where feasible. The subcommittee should evaluate data from PT Providers to determine if strains currently in use are showing equivalent performance, and develop a recommendation for program improvement, which may include specifying strain performance criteria on the FoPT tables.





### Micro FoPT Subcommittee Scope Item #2



- Much discussion on this topic:
  - Reviewed ISO guidance, international standard practice
  - Bi-modal distribution occurring with certain methods
  - methods may favor one bacteria over another
  - PT providers are not required to test/verify the PT samples by multiple methods
  - Strains can mutate over time affecting the sensitivity and variability of results
  - methods may not be applicable to all strains; strains react differently to different media
  - Variability of strains more indicative to what is actually in environment



### Recommendation to PTPEC Regarding Scope Item #2


As a result of several meetings to discuss this topic, the subcommittee determined that bacterial strain performance is not a general issue with proficiency test providers and appears to be limited. The possibility of the issue becoming more universal was discussed, however; it was determined that requiring specific strains would not entirely address the issue. Mutations within a strain can and do occur, which potentially affects the variability and sensitivity of results over time. Requiring the use of a specific strain in PT samples is not an internationally recognized practice.

The subcommittee did not review PT data since the collection and review of PT data were not necessary to reach this recommendation. Ultimately, the potential problems appear to lie with specific methods and the fact that providers are not required to perform testing using multiple methods. Since this potential issue is not within the scope of the TNI PTPEC, the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee recommends that strains not be specified in the FoPT tables.



### PTPA Reports


- **A2LA (Kelly Black)**
- **A-Class (Matt Sica)**



### SOP Subcommittee Update


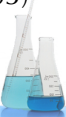
**Members:**

- Stacie Metzler- Chair
- Nicole Cairns
- Pat Brumfield
- Ilona Taunton




### SOP Subcommittee Update


- Completed update and committee approved:
  - TNI Proficiency Testing Program Dispute Resolution Procedure (4-102)
  - Proficiency Testing Executive Committee Voting Procedure (4-105)



### SOP Subcommittee Update



- Completed first review of the Fields of Proficiency Testing Management SOP (4-107) in response to policy committee comments
  - Will present to committee if time permits at end of this meeting





### PT Program Position Paper

- Eric Smith, Joe Pardue, Jennifer Loudon
- Developed in response to a request from the Advocacy committee
  - Committee comments?
  - Audience comments?





### FoPT Implementation Issue

Susan Wyatt identified possible issues with PT Program implementation based on the current FoPT Table structure and standard language




Questions to consider:

- Are there changes that can be made to the standard to resolve these issues?
- Should the structure of the FoPT Tables be changed?
- Are there any other ways this issue can be resolved?



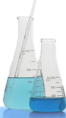
### Questions

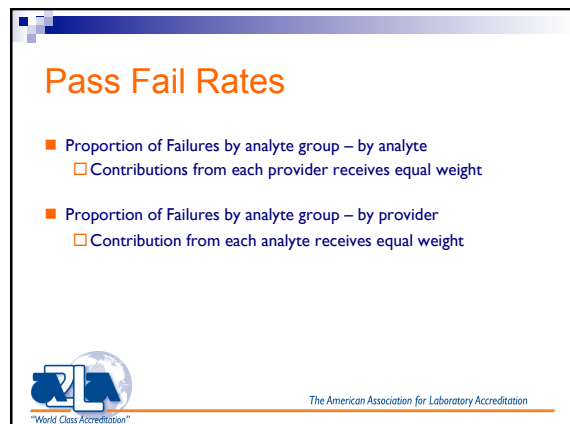
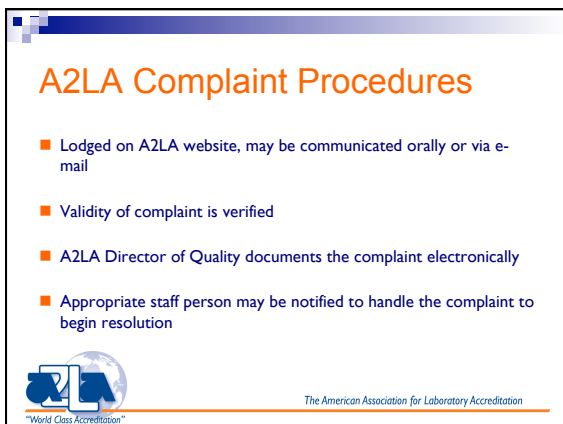
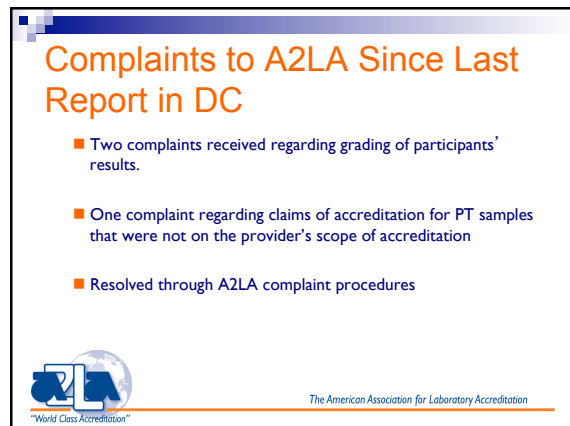
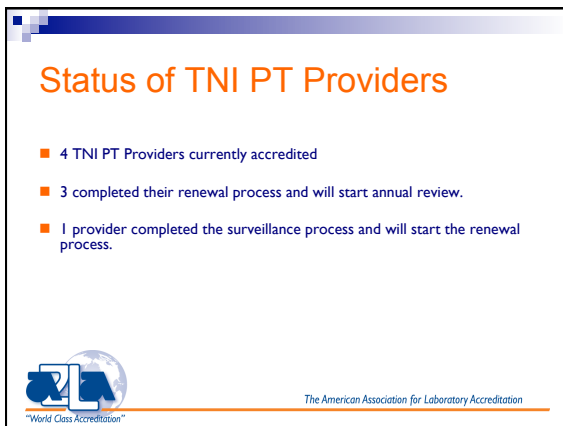
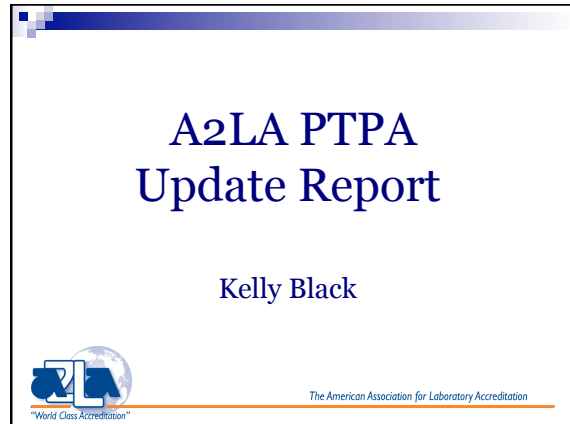
- Open Floor for Questions and Comments:
  - On topics discussed today
  - On new topics issues



### FoPT Management SOP

- Restructured for better flow
- Defined the elements of the FoPT Table
- Addressed time frame and scheduling issues
- Added language to address both additions and deletions of FoPTs and tables





## Solids – by Analyte



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## Solids – by Provider



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## WPCHEM – by Analyte



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## WPCHEM – by Provider



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## WSCHEM – by Analyte



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## WSCHEM – by Provider



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

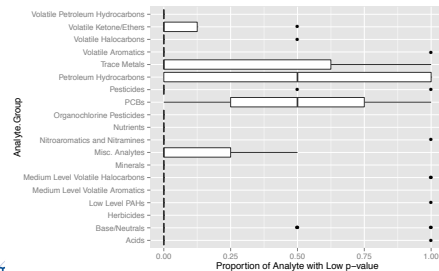
## Evaluation of group and expected values.

- Assure consistency of sample recovery and group agreement with published TNI acceptance criteria across different providers
- Calculate the simple linear regression of observed vs. expected
- Low  $p$ -values suggest differences in means or standard deviations from FoPT expectations
- A regression is performed for each provider/ analyte group/ analyte combination – when sufficient data permits
- Plots indicate when a low  $p$ -value exists for either slope or intercept



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## Solids: $p$ -values for std. dev.



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## Database Status

- Continue to monitor every study for all analytes including micro
- Any concerns regarding studies are followed up on as needed and during the onsite assessment process



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## We Thank

- Our customers, the A2LA accredited proficiency testing providers
- Our assessors and technical advisory committee that support us in the continuous improvement of our accreditation program



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation



## PTPA Report

August 8, 2013

Presented By: Matt Sica

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board

## Providers

- Absolute Standards
- NSI Solutions, Inc.
- Sigma Aldrich RTC



2

## Complaints

- None



3

## Pass/Fail Rates TNI EL-V4 6.3.2

- TNI EL-V4 6.3.2
  - The PTPA shall investigate any situation where a PT Provider's pass/fail rate for any analyte or overall is statistically different from the national average at a 95% level, as determined by appropriate statistical techniques.



4

## Challenges

- A PT Standard
  - Can be highest level standard in lab
- No TNI Standard requirement for use of RMs or CRMs from accredited sources
  - Homogeneity
  - Stability



5

## Challenges

- Standard Prep for Methods
  - Metals: Standard from Salts
  - Organics: Preparation from Neats
    - Homogeneity
    - Stability



6

## Challenges

- Data Collection
  - Analyte Group Names (optional field)
    - Did not calculate % Pass by Group
      - i.e. Metals
    - Little impact, as regulatory structure is based on analyte



7

## Challenges

- Small Datasets
  - N<30
- PTs not technology specific
- Labs report multiple methods with same result per study
  - Skews pass/fail rates with failure



8

## Challenges

- All Analytes included
  - Did not remove non-TNI analytes



9

## Weighted Average

- Calculated in Filemaker Pro
- Verified accuracy of calculation
  - Excel
  - Hand Calculations



10

## Data Collection

- 124,483 Reported Values to PTPs
- 6532 Database Records Evaluated



11

## Overall

- Weighted Mean Average for all data was:
- 96.1 % Pass Rate (124,483 reported records)
  - Data Includes:
    - Non TNI PT Analytes (State)
      - Accredited to ISO/IEC 17043



12