European Molecular Genetics Quality Network

EMQN update – October 2013

Dear Colleague,

This is the latest newsletter from EMQN. It contains lots of information about the 2014 schemes plus an announcement about a potential new EQA scheme for imprinting disorders, and the results of our 2012 feedback survey.

1. EQA scheme registration deadline fast approaching

The closing date for registration for all of the 2014 EQA schemes is at the end of this month (27th October 2013). Registration can only be made via your EMQN website account.

2. EQA scheme catalogue

A comprehensive catalogue of our 36 EQA schemes offered in 2014 can be downloaded from the EMQN website, or by going directly to the following URL:
http://www.emqn.org/emqn/digitalAssets/118_848631325.pdf

3. Billing information.

We will shortly be sending out invoices. We kindly ask that you check (before the end October 2013) the billing address that you have provided on the EMQN website. You can check/edit the information by logging in to your EMQN account and selecting the "lab summary" tab.

4. Scheme timetables

DISEASE-SPECIFIC EQA SCHEMES		
Activity	Start	Finish
EQA scheme registration	01.05.13	27.10.13
Sample distribution	January 14	
Reporting period	January 14	March 2014
Scheme assessments	April 14	May 14
Lab results published	June 14	
Appeals process	June 14	
Final scheme report published	July 14	

MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY & TECHNICAL EQA SCHEMES		
Activity	Start	Finish
EQA scheme registration	01.05.13	27.10.13
Sample distribution	April 14	
Reporting period	April 14	June 2014
Scheme assessments	July 14	September 14
Lab results published	October 14	
Appeals process	October 14	
Final scheme report published	November 14	

5. FREE PARTICIPATION – Molecular testing in NSCLC lung cancer scheme

Due to a generous educational grant from AstraZeneca, we are able to offer this scheme for free to the first 250 labs who register (see 3 below). The grant covers the costs of EMQN registration (45GBP) plus participation in the scheme (400GBP) – these costs will be discounted from the invoices of participating labs.

This scheme was formerly known as the *EGFR* scheme and the change of scheme name reflects the changing diagnostic pathway now used by many labs.

Target: Mutations in the *EGFR, PIK3CA, KRAS* and *BRAF* genes (see below for scheme format).
Sample Material: Rolled sections of paraffin embedded materials designed to simulate a real patient sample.
Scheme Format: Assessment of genotyping, and biological and clinical interpretation. 10 samples of which 3 will have matching mock clinical cases. The EQA samples need to be tested as per your routine practice. Labs will be requested to provide information on which genes and mutations the samples were tested for. Therefore testing for all of the genes included in the EQA programme is NOT required.

6. New molecular pathology EQA schemes

We have expanded our portfolio to include 2 new pilot schemes for:

Molecular testing in sporadic colorectal cancers

Target: Mutations in the *KRAS, BRAF, NRAS* genes (see below for scheme format).
Sample Material: Rolled sections of paraffin embedded materials designed to simulate a real patient sample.
Scheme Format: Assessment of genotyping, and biological and clinical interpretation. 10 samples of which 3 will have matching mock clinical cases. The EQA samples need to be tested as per your routine practice. Labs will be requested to provide information on which genes and mutations the samples were tested for. Therefore testing for all of the genes included in the EQA programme is NOT required.

Oncogene panel testing

Target: Mutations in the *EGFR, PIK3CA, KRAS, HRAS, NRAS, cKIT, TP53* and *BRAF* genes. Designed for NGS and other high-throughput technologies. For specific tumour types, please register for the relevant Lung, Melanoma or Colorectal scheme.
Sample Material: Rolled sections of paraffin embedded materials designed to simulate a real patient sample.
Scheme Format: Assessment of genotyping ONLY. 3 samples with matching mock clinical cases. The EQA samples need to be tested as per your routine practice. Labs will be requested to provide information on which genes and mutations the samples were tested for. Therefore testing for all of the genes included in the EQA programme is NOT required.

7. Delivery addresses.

We kindly ask that you check (before the end October 2013) the delivery address that you have provided on the EMQN website. You can check/edit the information by logging in to your EMQN account and selecting the "lab summary" tab. EMQN is not responsible for packages that do not get delivered to the correct address if the information provided to us has errors in it. Please also note that we CANNOT deliver to a PO Box - we must have a physical delivery address.

8. New EQA scheme for IMPRINTING DISORDERS

We have been approached by the EU-funded COST network on Imprinting Disorders to develop a new EMQN scheme for Beckwith-Wiedemann and Russell-Silver syndromes. To establish the status quo, the COST network would like to get a better understanding of what imprinting disorders labs are testing, and the methods used.

If you test for these disorders, please consider completing the short online survey which can be accessed using this link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6YXDQDM

Alternatively, please contact Deborah Mackay (djgm@soton.ac.uk) or Karen Gronskov (Karen.Groenskov@regionh.dk) on behalf of Professor Thomas Eggermann, chair of the grant (teggermann@ukaachen.de).

9. Winners of the 45GBP Amazon Prize Draw

The 10 lucky winners of our Amazon Prize Draw are:

- Dorte Lildballe
- Jose Luis Soto
- Jean-Louis Blouin
- Kai Heinecke
- Eva Tornero
- Wojciech Mlynarski
- Alan Khoo
- Sandra Ibos
- Petr Martinek
- Litu Zhang

10. Results of EMQN user feedback survey

The results of our survey are now available from the EMQN website by clicking on the following link: http://www.emqn.org/emqn/digitalAssets/0/501_EMQN__feedbacksurvey_2012vWeb.pdf

11. Contacting EMQN

A quick reminder that our office email address is office@emqn.org for all enquiries.

Best wishes from the EMQN Team.