

Current Issues at DAP

RE-EVALUATION OF DAP BY THE EUROPEAN COOPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION WE REMAIN SIGNATORY TO THE MLA'S OF EA

DAP has been a signatory to the *Multilateral Agreement (MLA) for Testing* since November 1994 and a signatory to the *MLA for Certification Bodies (Products)* since March 1997. The membership in these European agreements for the mutual recognition of accreditation activities is the fundament for the recognition of conformity assessment activities of our accredited bodies in Europe and even worldwide for the areas of testing (here on the basis of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of ILAC).

EA has installed another *MLA for Inspection* since November 2003 with DAP having also applied for its membership. The maintenance of the membership in the MLAs has to be demonstrated in regular intervals, which is done during the re-evaluation every four years. From 16th till 20th February 2004, the sequences and the quality management system of DAP at our Office as well as the competence of our staff and of our external assessors were intensely checked at DAP Office and during six on-site assessments in Berlin, Brunswick, Hamburg, Leipzig and Stuttgart. The peer assessment was conducted by the team leader Carmen Garcia Villaragut, ENAC, Spain, by Karin Jensen, DANAK, Denmark and Ian Mann, SAS, Switzerland in a very professional, competent and fair way. During the final talk, the result was explained as follows in the summary report: "... that DAP remains a signatory to the EA MLA for testing and product certification and should become a new signatory for inspection." We had a glass of champagne with our team of evaluators sharing our happiness about this positive evaluation of our activities.

Of course there are some corrective actions to be put into practice to rectify the seven stated non-conformities and the minor concerns till the definite decision of the *EA Multilateral Agreement Committees (EA MLA)* on our maintenance or new admission in the MLAs.

We will immediately inform our assessors and costumers about the respective changes in our DAP News, on our website and by direct ways. Already now we would like to refer that more attention will be paid to the sufficient number of assessment days during the surveillance visits within the five-year validity period of accreditation to make sure all accredited fields are correspondingly checked. Where the interval of the surveillance assessments is extended to 30 months, in future other adequate surveillance activities are organized to be able to evaluate if the accredited body continues to comply with the requirements.

EA redefined the requirements for the inspection bodies type A (degree of independence); the correspondent EA Guide 5/01 was reformulated and endorsed in December 2003 with a transition period which will end in November 2004. After the completion of the German version in March 2004, we will inform all the inspection bodies in question examining them carefully. Furthermore, we will intensify our activities as for the appraisal of our assessors on-site.

We wish to thank all DAP staff and lead as well as technical assessors who have contributed to our successful evaluation. Thanks also to the laboratories, certification and inspection bodies which agreed on the participation of an evaluator during their assessment.

Dr.-Ing. Klaus Berner
Managing Director of DAP

Dipl.-Ing. Andrea Valbuena
Head of Accreditation Department
Tel: 0 30 / 67 05 91 21
Fax: 0 30 / 67 05 91 25
E-Mail: valbuena@dap.de

TOPICS

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INCOPORATION MEETING OF THE SC-ART

On 12th January there was the incorporation meeting of the Sector Committee Assisted Reproductive Technologies (SC-ART) at DAP Office. The managing director, Dr. Klaus Berner, welcomed the future members; in his introductory remarks he presented DAP and its integration in national and international bodies.

Dr. Heike Manke (DAP) explained the tasks and modes of operation of a sector committee. In the following election, Dr. med Friedrich Gagsteiger, manager of the IVF-Zentrum-Ulm, was unanimously elected chair of the sector committee. The vice-chair is Dipl.-Biol. Vera Baukloh from the Fertility Center in Hamburg. Dr. Manke was elected executive member of the sector committee. At the time being, the SC-ART has 11 members from Germany and abroad. Representatives are e.g. the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Reproduktionsmedizin (DGRM) and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Reproduktionsbiologie des Menschen (AGRBM).

In the majority of cases of unwanted childlessness nowadays, modern technologies of reproductive medicine allow for an efficient therapy. The philosophy of doctor's attendance first of all advise sophisticated methods of treatment which to a minor degree intervene in the natural way of pregnancy.

Characteristic methods are the intrauterine (intrauterine) insemination (IUI), *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), microsurgical aspiration of spermatozoa from the epididymis (MESA), testicular spermatozoa extraction (TESE).

The task of the SC-ART consists in demonstrating the fundamental steps and objectives as well as a voluntary quality assurance within the physicians for reproductive technologies. In addition, the sector committee supports DAP in giving technical advice for the test methods to be accredited in the area of *Assisted Reproductive Technologies* ensuring beside the professional judgement the promotion of use of scientific perceptions in the reproductive medicine and biology in clinical practices.

More than 5 national and international institutes or group practices in the area of reproductive technologies have already been granted accreditation according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and thus confirmed competence by DAP.

We would like to thank all members of the SC-ART for their honorary work and look forward to having an interesting cooperation in this ambitious area.

Dr. Antje Wichmann, DAP
Tel: 0 30 / 67 05 91 53
Fax: 0 30 / 67 05 91 25
E-Mail: wichmann@dap.de

26th WATER INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON

This year, the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) in cooperation with DAP will organize again an interlaboratory comparison for the matrix of water.

The samples will be allocated or sent on 7th September 2004. Three synthetic water samples will be made available which also may be obtained as individual samples. The following parameters will be offered this year:

Dilution 1: Lightly volatile halogenated hydrocarbons, arsenic, cadmium chromium, cobalt, nickel, thallium

Dilution 2: Chlorophenole

Dilution 3: Thallium, titan, and tin in chloride-containing dilution

The costs for the participation in this interlaboratory comparison with all dilutions are € 670.00 (individual dilutions: dilution 1 = € 420.00; dilution 2 or dilution 3 € 550.00, respectively and dilution 2 + 3 together € 400.00. For the dispatch in Germany we levy € 26.00. You may register till 28th March 2004. You may notice to participate after the deadline.

If you intend to participate in the interlaboratory comparisons or are in need of further material please direct your request to Dr. Lehmann at DAP Office. For more information and the registration forms please consult our website.

Dr. Christian Lehmann, DAP
Agastraße 24, Geb. R2, 12489 Berlin
Tel/Fax 0 30 / 67 05 91 26, -25
E-Mail: lehman@dap.de

DRINKING WATER INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON

Within the notification of tests according to the Drinking Water Ordinance (TrinkwVO), the laboratories are obliged to take part in drinking water interlaboratory comparisons. The recommendation of the Federal Environmental Agency published last year in the Federal Health Magazine says that a laboratory for the notified parameters has successfully to pass an interlaboratory comparison at least once in three years. The four providers of interlaboratory comparisons acting in this field agreed on providing each parameter of the TrinkwVO twice within three years.

In case of microbiological parameters, the laboratories have to pass successfully two interlaboratory comparisons per year for the parameters *E. coli*, coliform bacteria, enterococci and number of bacteria. For the other parameters, taking successfully part once in an interlaboratory comparison per year is sufficient. More information e.g. as to the providers of interlaboratory comparisons may be retrieved as a

flyer from the following address: <http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/siwa/ch/aqs/pdf/TWFLyer.pdf>.

DAP has edited a technical note (TM 12) referring to the accreditation according to the Drinking Water Ordinance. This technical note may be downloaded from our website (at the moment only in German): <http://www.dap.de/95doc/DAP-TM-12Rev3-0.pdf>.

Dr. Christian Lehmann, DAP
Agastraße 24, Geb. R2, 12489 Berlin
Tel/Fax 0 30 / 67 05 91 26, -25
E-Mail: lehman@dap.de

INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON FOR HERBACIDE TESTING

On behalf of the Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, the analytical centre of IFA Tulln has operated a system for external quality assurance in water analysis. These interlaboratory comparisons are organized several times per year and are open for all laboratories also from abroad. One should particularly emphasize the interlaboratory comparisons for the herbicides and methyl *tertiary* butyl ether (MTBE) as they are seldom offered. For more information please consult http://www.ifatest.at/english/index_e0.html. The contact partner for the organic analytics is Dr. Schumacher, Mr (Tel./Fax: +43 22 72 / 66 28 0-407 / 403).

Dr. Christian Lehmann, DAP
Agastraße 24, Geb. R2, 12489 Berlin
Tel/Fax 0 30 / 67 05 91 26, -25
E-Mail: lehman@dap.de

ACCREDIATION OF PROVIDERS OF INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS

Due to a number of enquiries, DAP has decided to accredit providers of interlaboratory comparisons. The DIN EN 45003 together with the ISO Guide 43 and the ILAC G 13 are the basis for this accreditation. The combination of the standard with the two international guides assures a wide international acceptance of our accreditation. The accreditation against DIN EN 45004 enables to accredit providers of interlaboratory comparisons with or without testing laboratories in accordance with the same criteria.

This new field of activity though causes the DAP, due to the reasons of impartiality, to resign from organizing interlaboratory comparisons. It goes without saying, that our costumers will continue to be informed about coming interlaboratory comparisons.

Dr. Christian Lehmann, DAP
Agastraße 24, Geb. R2, 12489 Berlin
Tel/Fax 0 30 / 67 05 91 26, -25
E-Mail: lehman@dap.de

Flag: Editor:

DAP

Agastraße 24 / Gebäude R2

12489 Berlin-Adlershof

Internet: <http://www.dap.de>

Responsible for Press: Dr.-Ing. Klaus Berner

Editorial staff: Susanne Carlsburg