



INTERNATIONAL HPV LABNET NEWSLETTER 2025- March-16

Dear colleagues,

I hope that everything is well at your laboratories and in your countries. The International HPV Reference Center is now sending the Newsletter for spring 2025, describing updates and news. Please contact us with news items that you would like us to include (mail to Hpvcenter@ki.se). The newsletters will be sent by email and published at the Int. HPV Ref. Center website (<https://www.hpvcenter.se/publications/labnet-newsletter/>). Feel free to share it with colleagues and researchers.

Best wishes to everyone,

Joakim Dillner

General updates

Eurogin 2025, Porto

1. Global HPV Reference LabNet Session

We had a Global HPV Reference Laboratory Session where we presented:

- Pivotal role of NRLs in advancing cervical cancer elimination efforts (Steffi Silling)
- Proficiency studies for genotyping and screening (Carina Eklund)
- International Collaborative study on sensitivity and specificity for CIN2+ of viral amounts and types of HPV (Emel Yilmaz)
- Sample adequacy (Clementina Cocuzza)
- Collaborative efforts in developing E-learning resources and unified written standards (Kate Cuschieri)
- Updates from the NRLs of Belgium, France, Slovenia and Norway.

Thank you very much to the speakers for the presentations.

We have now sent a **symposium proposal for a global HPV reference labent session to IPVC** as well. Please let us know if you plan to attend IPVC this year and if we can add you to the program



of the satellite symposium (IPVC or the LabNet can not pay registration fees or other expenses, but if you are attending anyway it would be nice with a satellite symposium).

2. Lunch meeting at EUROGIN2025 in Porto: We met to discuss several matters on collaboration and the way forward. We were a total of 21 participants from 10 NRL.

Participants

Ardashel Latsuzbaia	Belgium
Marc Arbyn	Belgium
Sharon Dhillon	
Marcelo Soares	Brasil
Juliana Siqueira	Brasil
Quentin Lepiller	France
Steffi Silling	Germany
Clementina Cocuzza	Italy
Marianna Martinelli	Italy
Trine Ballestad Rounge	Norway
Kristiane Söreng	Norway
Gro Kummeneje Presthus	Norway
Milan Stosic	Norway
Lesly Solis Ponce	Peru
Mario Poljak	Slovenia
Emel Yilmaz	Sweden
Camilla Lagheden	Sweden
Carina Elkund	Sweden
Joakim Dillner	Sweden
Laila Sara Arroyo	Sweden
Kate Cuschieri	UK

- Introduction: Joakim welcomed the participants, particularly the **2 new members (Brazil and Perú)** and thanked them for willingness to collaborate.
- New grant from BMGF: Our grant from BMGF is expiring, but a new one is obtained. We have some similar, but also some new tasks.
 - o **Proficiency panels.** This will continue. The IHRC is issuing panels every year (both for screening and genotyping) and we see that the number of laboraotries increases and that the proficiency increases. We have now reached a 94% proficiency in screening (132 laboratories participating) and 81.1% (96 laboratories) for the genotyping panel. The technical reports will be soon available at <https://www.hpvcenter.se/publications/reports/>.



- **Expanding the LabNet.** The BMGF is asking us to expand the labnet and include more NRLs from LMIC countries. A new member should be HPV experts and formally appointed by their Government. The expectations on a NRL are detailed here: (<https://www.hpvcenter.se/hpv-labnet/>). Do not hesitate to make contacts and see if more countries can join us!

 - The **Laboratory manual** is posted here: <https://www.hpvcenter.se/hpv-laboratory-manual/>. Have a look at the manual when you have time. Three things are important: updates, corrections and additions. Any ideas/feedback are welcome. Write to sara.arroyo.muhr@ki.se with those.
 - A chapter on Setting up a laboratory is now being finally drafted
 - Maribel Almonte will write on TPPs.
 - The IHRC has been asked to write an addition on Data Management and Screening Registry analyses.
- Anyone is welcome to participate and contribute with any written chapter or new chapters. Furthermore, it is encouraged to proceed and make e-courses out of the chapters. If you are up to it, please contact sara.arroyo.muhr@ki.se for guidance.
- **Evaluation of Novel HPV assays.**
 - With the International Collaborative study on sensitivity and specificity for CIN2+ of viral amounts and types of HPV, we aim to set a required limit of detection (LoD) for each HPV type in a screening test. Preliminary analysis suggest that a required LoD should be 10 IU/ul for HPV 16/18, 25IU for HPV31, 33, 35, 45, 52 and 58 and 100 IU for other genotypes (HPV 39/51/56/59).
 - The first version of test evaluation panels will be built with 12 HPV types in serial dilutions to determine the LoD and in triplicates (for reproducibility). The first version of the test validation panel will be included in the clinical validation "VALGENT" as an added virological/analytical requirement.
 - A work group lead by Clementina Cocuzza and Mario Poljac will investigate the minimum requirements for sample adequacy testing. The idea is to design challenging samples (not having enough cells) that screening assays should classify as invalid. If you want to collaborate with this project, please contact to sara.arroyo.muhr@ki.se, so she can build the group and give it to the WG leaders.

Next Annual Global HPV NRL Lab Net Meeting.

The next meeting will be a **virtual meeting on Teams on May 9th, at 12.00-14.00 CET**. We will send a Teams invitation soon. Hope to see you all there.

