

# INTERNATIONAL HPV REFERENCE CENTER

## LABNET NEWS

JANUARY 2023



Dear colleagues,

Hoping that everything is well at your laboratories and in your countries. The International HPV Reference Center is now sending the first HPV LabNet Newsletter for 2023, describing updates and news. There are many projects going on!

The next newsletter will be sent out in May 2023. Please contact us with news items that you would like us to include (mail to [Hpvcenter@ki.se](mailto:Hpvcenter@ki.se)). The newsletters will be sent by email and also 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

#### **Proficiency studies**

Last year, and for the first time, we issued both an International HPV Genotyping and an International HPV Screening proficiency study.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> was the deadline for reporting results. We have already received **145** datasets for the HPV genotyping study (from 83 different laboratories), and **115** datasets for the HPV screening study (from 91 laboratories). A new record of participation!

Furthermore, the national reference laboratories (NRLs) of Argentina, Norway and Germany are arranging proficiency programs in their countries and we sent 42 more panels for further distribution in their countries. Our vision is that we will for the future mostly be sending these proficiency panels to NRLs, who can use them to organize quality assurance schemes based on proficiency testing in their respective countries. This vision is intended both for easier logistics and to facilitate provision of support to the laboratories who request it.

We are now receiving the last proficiency panel results from the laboratories. The results will be published in the near future. We can already now say that, in general, the data is looking good!

### **E-learning resources: HPV Laboratory Manual and Courses**

Many of us are now working on the HPV laboratory manual. Thank you all for your efforts.

Remember that deadline for writing is January 31<sup>st</sup>, and for revision February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Currently, there is only one e-learning course (on HPV types) but we expect to have some more soon. Everyone is more than welcome to prepare a course. Just write to us! We also encourage everyone to take the existing course, for inspiration. (<https://www.hpvcenter.se/e-learning-resources/>)

### **Satellite symposium at IPVC 2023 (Washington D.C.)**

We are looking forward to meeting you all at the IPVC 2023. Don't forget that we have a special satellite symposium for the HPV LabNet, "Global HPV Laboratory Network". The idea, as we decided at our annual NRL meeting, is to have some time for the LabNet to meet in person, update and discuss science at the conference.

Joakim Dillner and Susanne Garland will be moderating the session, and Camilla Lagheden (Sweden), Jean-Luc Prétet (France), Elizabeth Unger (USA) and Maria Dolores Fernell (Argentina) will be speaking on some ongoing interests of the LabNet.

### **Consensus requirements for quality assurance analyses if "HPV negative" HSIL+ is found**

A guideline for quality assurance analyses if an HPV negative HSIL+ is found is now finished and the corresponding manuscript is about to be submitted soon. The whole working group that we appointed at the annual meeting is now reviewing the draft. The WG comprises the NRLs of France, USA, Australia, Slovenia, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Argentina and Belgium. We will try to submit at the beginning of February.

### **Virus types and amounts in relation to sensitivity and specificity for CIN2+**

The International HPV Reference Center aims to assess the sensitivity and specificity for CIN2+ in relation to HPV types and amounts of virus. Information about the study and call to participate have been sent to all NRLs with 7 NRLs agreeing to participate. We are now finalizing the collection of samples, and will come back as soon as it is ready!

## Quality Assurance in HPV testing

A review manuscript about Quality Assurance in HPV testing is now submitted to IJGC. We had very nice comments from reviewers and a revised version has been re-submitted. Special thanks to the writing group that includes Kate Cuschieri (Scotland), Murat Gultekin (Turkey), Elizaveta Padalko (Belgium), Sara Arroyo-Mühr (Sweden), Maria Dolores Fellner, Rita Mariel Correa and Alejandra Picconi (Argentina).

A big thanks for all your efforts and let us look forward to a new productive year!

If there is anything you would like to add from your NRL to the Newsletter, please let us know as well.

