

INSTAND

Promoting Quality in Medical Laboratories



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INSTAND NEWSLETTER

Dear colleagues,

In this fall issue, we present our new **EQA Scheme catalog 2024**. Read more about all the new features and modifications in our EQA Scheme program in this newsletter.

Further topics:

- 'A brief look from the EQA schemes at the biomarker thrombopoietin (TPO)': a contribution by INSTAND EQA scheme expert Prof. Folker Wenzel, MD
- News from the INSTAND Academy: Seminar CSF Diagnostics in Neurology at the end of November - register now!
- A glance at upcoming INSTAND Events this fall and next spring
- The latest INSTAND publications.

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please click [here](#). Feedback or changes to your contact details can be sent [here](#).

Happy reading!

With kind regards
Your INSTAND Team

Prof. Dr. med. Michael Spannagl
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ingo Schellenberg
Prof. Dr. med. Klaus-Peter Hunfeld

We introduce the new EQA Scheme Catalogue 2024

We have further optimized our INSTAND EQA Scheme program for you and your needs. Our new features are:

- Starting in 2024, we will again offer all EQA schemes in molecular genetics - except EQA scheme 774 NOD2.
 - Based on the requirements of the new Rili-BÄK, we have added the EQA schemes 762 (Molecular Genetics 42 - Dihydropyrimidin Dehydrogenase), 763 (Molecular Genetics 43 - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Apolipoprotein) and 764 (Molecular Genetics 44 - C-C Motif Chemokine Receptor 5) to our program.
 - In bacteriological infectious serology, we have expanded our program with the addition of EQAS 326 (Bartonella AK), 327 (Brucella AK), 328 (Francisella AK), 329 (Leptospira AK) and 330 (Rickettsia AK).
 - In CSF diagnostics, our program has been supplemented with EQAS 467 (CSF diagnostics 07) and EQAS 468 (CSF diagnostics 08).
 - In parasitology, we now also cover molecular genetic methods in EQAS 458 (Protozoa in stool) since mid-2023.
 - Our prices remain unchanged for 2024 despite general price increases. However, an increase in shipping costs caused by the transport companies is unfortunately unavoidable as of 2024. We keep the costs for you as low as possible.
 - We give you more time for your analyses. At the request of many participants, we will also send all EQA schemes already on Tuesdays in 2024. The submission deadline for most samples remains Friday (also on public holidays). Please check in advance if our shipping times conflict with your vacation times so that you can modify your order early.
 - You will find the current EQA program in our [RV-Online system](#), and on our [website](#).
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A Brief Look from the EQA Schemes to the Biomarker Thrombopoietin (TPO)

Prof. Dr. med. Folker Wenzel: INSTAND EQA Scheme Expert,
Faculty Medical and Life Sciences Campus Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany

The hormones erythropoietin (EPO) and thrombopoietin (TPO) are master regulators of hematopoiesis. Due to their respective feedback mechanisms, cell loss leads to a reactive increase of both hormones. In the following, the focus will be on TPO.

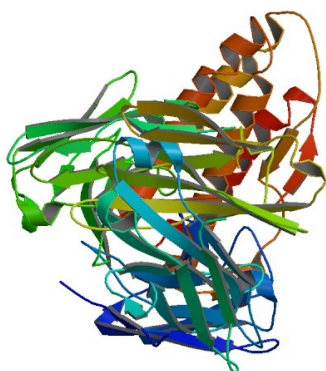


Fig. 1: Protein THPO

TPO is the strongest regulator of megakaryocyte growth and platelet production. The hormone is mainly synthesized in the liver, where corresponding TPO transcripts have been detected in hepatocytes. Studies in volunteers and patients suggest that ligand binding to high-affinity receptors on platelets primarily regulates serum.

Serum TPO levels are elevated in aplastic anemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and chemotherapy-induced anemia and after platelet apheresis. Low TPO levels combined with thrombocytopenias have been noted in patients with liver cirrhosis [20, 29]. In children, a decrease in TPO concentrations had been observed in both acute and chronic liver failure.

It can be concluded that, given the reciprocal relationship between serum TPO concentration and platelet count, patients who develop thrombocytopenia should be expected to have an increase in TPO as long as liver function is normal.

Since 2017, INSTAND e.V. has offered a TPO proficiency test. The low number of participants so far is mainly recruited from institutions where TPO determinations are performed regularly in the context of corresponding clinical studies, and the EQA scheme is used here as a quality criterion within the study.

However, it can be assumed that TPO will be used as a biomarker in the context of increasingly personalized medicine. Therefore, an unscheduled proficiency test is currently being conducted with participants from the universities of Vienna, Munich, Dresden, and Rostock, the Furtwangen University of Applied Sciences, and the laboratory physicians in Singen. After collecting the data, this would be one of the first external quality proofs of TPO determination worldwide.

With the hope that this brief look at the regulation of TPO has aroused interest in this biomarker, please feel free to address questions and comments to the Prof. Dr. F. Wenzel.



Contact

INSTAND ACADEMY

Seminar CSF Diagnostics in Neurology - Paradigm Shift in Brain Barriers, Immune System and Chronic Diseases

This seminar conveys the scientific basis for the knowledge-based interpretation of medical laboratory data.

The self-organization of biological structure, nonlinear dynamics of complex systems, and immunological network theories allow the development of pathomechanisms with appropriate diagnostics and, especially in chronic diseases, to interpret them as expressions of phenotypic biology. This also enables the development of new concepts for causal therapies.

In this seminar, you will receive information on how disease-typical patterns for the differential diagnosis of bacterial, viral, parasite-related, oncological, chronic inflammatory, autoimmune, and psychiatric diseases can be identified in CSF diagnostics with a report integrating all laboratory data. In addition, Prof. Reiber will present the latest version of the CSF app.

Docent: Prof. Dr. Hansotto Reiber

Price: 84 € per person (the price includes 1 copy of the book "CSF Diagnostics in Neurology - Paradigm Shift in Brain Barriers, Immune System and Chronic Diseases".)

A certificate of attendance will be issued for the seminar. The number of participants is limited to 30.

Please note that this course will be offered in German only.

Registration deadline: November 12, 2023

Course date: November 24, 2023 at the CVJM in Duesseldorf, Germany

More Information can be found on our [website](#).

[Registration Link](#)

FUTURE EVENTS



**Global Health Exhibition
Saudi Arabia,
Riyadh Front Exhibition &
Conference Center (RFECC)
October 29-31, 2023**

Up-to-date information about our stand can be found on our [website](#).



**INSTAND Annual General Meeting
Dezember 5, 2023
Duesseldorf, Germany**

Please find more Information [here](#).



**Medlab Middle East 2024
Dubai World Trade Centre
February 5-8, 2024**

Event Details can be found [here](#).

Find all INSTAND Events [here](#).

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

nature

Results of German external quality assessment scheme for SARS-COV-2 antigen detection

Laura Vierbaum, Nathalie Wojtalewicz , Hans-Peter Grunert, Anika Zimmermann, Annemarie Scholz, Sabine Godesberg, Patricia Kaiser, Ulf Duehring, Christian Drosten, Victor Corman, Daniela Niemeyer, Holger F. Rabenau, Martin Obermeier, Andreas Nitsche, Janine Michel, Andreas Puyskens, Jim F. Huggett, Denise M. O'Sullivan, Eloise Busby, Simon Cowen, Peter M. Vallone, Megan H. Cleveland, Samtene Falak, Andreas Kummrow, Ingo Schellenberg, Heinz Zeichhardt & Martin Kammel

Nature Scientific Reports, August 2023

[Full Article](#)

[Full Article](#)

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