

INSTAND

Promoting Quality in Medical Laboratories



Volume 1, January 2023

INSTAND NEWSLETTER

Dear colleagues,

We are starting this year with several events and look forward to meeting you there in person. From February 6 to February 9, 2023, you can find us at our booth at Medlab Middle East in Dubai. Then, we hope to meet you in May at the Worldlab-Euromedlab 2023. More on our events in this issue.

Further topics in this newsletter:

- Updates about our EQA Schemes
- An article on bacteriological infection serology by Prof. Dr. med. Klaus-Peter Hunfeld (EQAS Expert & INSTAND e.V. Board - Vice President)
- Surveillance audits of the DAkkS
- News from the INSTAND Academy
- The latest INSTAND publication.

We wish you every success in 2023!

With kind regards
Your INSTAND Team

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

INSTAND EQA SCHEMES

Virtual Parasite Detection

Starting this year, INSTAND offers the proficiency tests Parasites in Blood (906) and Parasites in Stool, also in digital format. After the successful pilot for the digital proficiency test Parasites in Blood, the Parasiteweb platform has been further optimized and is now ready for use. The digital format allows us to meet the ever-increasing demand and adds an additional educational aspect: after completing the evaluation, you can directly compare the parasites you have identified with expert answers. The Fraunhofer Institute and our EQAS Expert, Prof. Dr. Egbert Tannich, developed the platform. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all involved for their tireless efforts and outstanding performance.

Fecal Parasites

INSTAND strives to update its EQAS program continuously and to expand it accordingly. It has been shown that microscopic detection of human pathogenic intestinal protozoa, such as *Giardia duodenalis*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, or *Cryptosporidium* ssp., has very limited sensitivity and specificity. Therefore, many laboratories have switched to detecting such parasitic diarrheal pathogens using molecular methods (PCR). We want to consider this development and thus offer proficiency testing for the molecular detection of fecal parasites (PCR) in our program from May 2023. We will provide you with further details for registration at the beginning of the year.

Collaboration with WHO in 2023

INSTAND is proud to organize an international EQA scheme to detect monkeypox virus DNA in cooperation with and on behalf of the WHO this year. We thank Prof. Zeichhardt and Dr. Kammel for being available as EQA experts for this trial. Participation is limited to WHO-designated laboratories.

EVENTS

**Medlab Middle East**

**Dubai World Trade Centre
February 6 - 9, 2023**

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

**Worldlab - Euromedlab
Roma 2023**

May 21 - 25, 2023

Current information can be found [here](#).

All INSTAND events can be found [here](#).

BACTERIOLOGICAL INFECTIOUS SEROLOGY

Old fashioned or still important?

Prof. Dr. med. K.-P. Hunfeld: INSTAND e.V. Board - Vice President & EQAS Expert
Central Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Hospital Hygiene,
Northwest Hospital, Frankfurt am Main

Since the introduction of Koch's postulates in microbiological diagnostics in 1882, the direct detection of pathogens has been considered the gold standard in diagnosing infectious diseases. With the discovery of the Gruber-Widal reaction about 150 years ago (Fig. 1), infection serological pathogen diagnostics was also established. Today, many different serological test methods for the indirect detection of bacteria and viruses are established in routine microbiological laboratories. The Viennese scientist Max von Gruber first used the serological detection of antibodies from sera of infected animals and patients by agglutination of *Salmonella Typhi* and *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria to diagnose infectious diseases. The same observation was independently described later by Fernand Widal in 1897. Since then, the detection of pathogen-specific antibodies by immunological methods has remained an essential pillar for diagnosing pathogens from blood and CSF, despite the significant progress of modern molecular biological assays for direct pathogen detection.

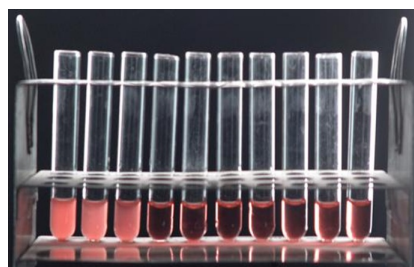


Figure 1: Gruber-Widal reaction in the tube
(Source: slideshare.net)

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SURVEILLANCE AUDITS

In December 2022, INSTAND was assessed by the German Accreditation Body DAkkS as an EQA Scheme provider according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043 within the scope of a surveillance audit. The audit was completed with success.

In February 2023, the INSTAND calibration laboratory will also be assessed by the DAkkS according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and DIN EN ISO 15195.

We thank all trainers and participants for the successful year 2022. The new program of the INSTAND Academy for 2023 will be published in January. We are pleased to be able to offer all courses from 2022 again in 2023. In addition, new courses in hematology and laboratory diagnostics of chronic diseases will be offered.

We are currently working on developing a platform for the INSTAND Academy so that, in the future, you will be able to find all information and courses conveniently and clearly in one place.

[To the Academy](#)

NEWEST PUBLICATION



HbA1c Measurements in Interlaboratory Comparisons: Adaptation of Acceptance Limits in the Rili-BAK

P. Kaiser, G. Freckmann, A. Petersmann, M. Nauck, L. Heinemann (2022)

Diabetes, Stoffwechsel und Herz
Volume 31, 5/2022

IN GERMAN ONLY

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