

# Quality Institute Project Post Conference Update

December 2003

- *New Name for Quality Institute*
- *Project Teams Update*
- *Next National Meeting being planned*

Comments may be submitted to [cgd9@cdc.gov](mailto:cgd9@cdc.gov)

## Quality Institute to be renamed, activities move forward for incorporation

Comments from attendees of the 2003 Quality Institute conference provided support for establishing a Quality Institute which would provide laboratory practice surveillance, best practices information, policy analysis and education. The Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS), CDC is now working to establish a permanent organization, an outgrowth of the Quality Institute. This organization will be a public-private partnership to address cross-cutting health issues. The key objectives of the "Institute" are to develop evidence-based practices, fund research and provide education to improve laboratory services. Quality Institute project activities are now being conducted under the proposed name of IQLM (Institute for Quality in Laboratory Medicine).

The concept for the IQLM has received broad support throughout CDC. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the IQLM Executive Committee addressed the CDC Director's Executive Staff. The presentations by Drs. Mike Laposata (Director of Clinical Laboratories, Massachusetts General Hospital), Bob Martin (DLS Director) and Toby Merlin (DLS Assoc Director for Laboratory Science) were well received. The CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion has been playing an active role with DLS in promoting the IQLM within the organization.

Currently CDC staff is in the process of developing a business plan and considering incorporation of the IQLM. CDC will be asking the Quality Institute 2003 conference steering committee members and partners for input regarding the structure and function of IQLM.

## Project Team Update

Since August, three project teams were formed with the following focus:

Team	Goal	Team Leader
Awards	To create an awards and grants program for innovative practices	Ana Stankovic, MD, PhD <a href="mailto:Ana_Stankovic@bd.com">Ana_Stankovic@bd.com</a>
Quality Indicators for Health Laboratory Services	Develop core set of quality indicators for laboratory performance	Lee Hilborne, MD <a href="mailto:LHilborne@mednet.ucla.edu">LHilborne@mednet.ucla.edu</a>
Networks/System Quality Surveillance	Develop voluntary network(s) of sentinel laboratories	Michael Noble, MD <a href="mailto:mnoble@vanhosp.bc.ca">mnoble@vanhosp.bc.ca</a>

Project team members attended their 1<sup>st</sup> workgroup meeting in Atlanta Nov. 12-14<sup>th</sup>.

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By the end of the day, each team had touched on the direction for their team, activities and timelines for moving ahead.

## Summary of the discussions:

### **Awards Team**

The goal of the awards group is to develop criteria for the selection of recipients who demonstrate innovative practices. Criteria discussed include innovators, initial adopters, building and strengthening partnerships, enhancing economic value and improved patient/public health outcomes.

### **Indicators Team**

The goal for the indicators group is to define a core set of indicators of laboratory practice across all laboratory settings. Possible uses for the indicators include surveillance for quality across organizations and identification of best practices for awards. The group developed a matrix to classify indicators in the following way:

	Pre-analytic	Analytic	Post-analytic
Disease/condition specific indicators	e.g. HEDIS	e.g. Test interpretation	e.g. Condition interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Antibiotics</li></ul>
Disease/condition independent indicators	Patient Identification	Tests not performed	Laboratory Report
Indicators across the spectrum	Satisfaction/Complaints Efficiency	Event tracking Equity	Cost effectiveness

### **Network Team**

The team discussed conducting pilot trials to

- Test feasibility/relative importance/scientific soundness of pilot networks
- Develop a baseline for current laboratory quality practices
- Complete needs assessment for a network

Feasibility studies are being planned with existing networks

## **Mark your Calendar for next National Meeting!**

A follow-up to the 2003 Quality Institute conference is being planned for **spring 2005**. (March or April dates)

The focus of the next open meeting will be innovative/best practices in laboratory medicine.

The proposed format is to initiate the Institute's Awards program and include a poster symposium of best practices, as well as progress reports from the Project Teams.

**-End-**