

European Molecular Genetics Quality Network

Membership Brochure

European Molecular Genetics Quality Network
c/o Genetic Medicine, 6th Floor
St Mary's Hospital, Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9WL
United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 276 6741
Fax: +44 276 6606

Web: www.emqn.org
email: support@emqn.org





EMQN Membership Details

Membership

EMQN membership makes you a partner in the largest external quality assessment network for molecular genetic testing in the world. Membership offers important benefits for a modest outlay and is open to public and private testing laboratories, commercial manufacturers of relevant instruments and reagents, and to pharmaceutical, veterinary and other laboratories.

Gain Recognition For Your Laboratory

The independent assessment of your laboratory's performance brings a focus to your quality management programme and helps you to gain international recognition for your results.

National accrediting bodies, such as UKAS in the UK, are members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Membership of EMQN enables you to satisfy the EQA participation requirements of these bodies.

The EMQN includes over 700 members covering over 80% of the genetic testing laboratories in Europe. Membership of these high performing laboratories extends beyond Europe with members in Australia, Asia and the Americas. These laboratories have chosen EMQN as their EQA provider. By choosing EMQN you join this elite group. By participating in our EQA schemes you set high standards and will gain recognition and respect for a commitment to the highest standards of patient care.

Drive Your Quality Improvement and Innovation

Participation in EMQN's schemes helps to drive your laboratory quality higher and contributes to your quality improvement model. The results of scheme participation contribute towards best practice guideline development and enables the diffusion of innovation. Our members' combined contributions ultimately benefit each individual member laboratory.

EMQN has adopted a continuous improvement model for its EQA process. Each laboratory receives feedback on their performance on each scheme. Schemes and participants are assessed with reference to best practice on individual diseases and the feedback provided includes guidance for laboratory management in genetics. A report is provided from the scheme as a whole, as is a summary report on the EQA schemes in a given year. Based on an independent assessment of results these reports provide a variety of levels of feedback to support the overall improvement model.

EMQN organises best practice meetings. Members can contribute to best practice development through these meetings which sthe testing community as a whole. Following a best practice meeting, draft best practice guidelines are produced and published on this and related websites. Access to and use of this information and participation in EQA schemes are key to the diffusion of innovation and the continuous drive for quality.

Access Help and Advice

As a member laboratory requiring help and advice you are invited to contact the EMQN office where, on a case by case basis, we will use our extensive network to access international expertise in molecular genetic testing.

EMQN is best placed to know the high performers and leaders in specific areas. We can help with general performance problems or with specific issues highlighted by scheme participation. Through our quality system these interactions are recorded and followed up to ensure the effective use of the advice provided. These valuable experiences are selectively captured in anonymised case studies and shared with the membership.

EMQN is continually seeking to improve its offerings to member laboratories. We are active in the development of new benefits including our case studies library and a new initiative to enable experience sharing through staff interchange. These new benefits will be published in our news sections and detailed further on this website.



Accelerate Your Adoption of New Technology

The EMQN responds to innovative testing technologies with appropriate new EQA schemes to drive quality and accelerate adoption. Where your laboratory is a leader in new technology adoption, EMQN compares and links you to other progressive laboratories in the field.

EMQN closely tracks developments in diagnostic testing as new technologies are adopted and applied. EMQN responds to these developments with new EQA schemes, providing support to progressive laboratories. Participating laboratories benefit from an independent measure of quality early in the adoption process.

An example of EMQN leadership is in the development of sequencing schemes. Other schemes currently under consideration include the development of EQA methodologies for:

1. New sequencing technologies
2. Prenatal diagnostics
3. Pharmacogenetics method to predict patient response to new specialized drugs

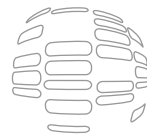
Which schemes are available?

In 2010 the EMQN will be offering 27 EQA schemes, including :

- Breast cancer (Familial - BRCA)
- Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT)
- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
- Constitutional Molecular Karyotyping (Microarray / Array CGH) - *pilot scheme*
- DNA sequencing (DNA-SEQ)
- Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy (DMD / BMD)
- Familial Adenomatous Polyposis colon cancer (FAP) - *pilot scheme*
- Familial Recurrent Fevers (FRF)
- Fragile-X syndrome (FRAX)
- Friedreich ataxia (FRDA)
- Hereditary Deafness (DFNB1)
- Hereditary Haemochromatosis (HFE)
- Hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer (HNPCC)
- Huntington disease (HD)
- Monogenic diabetes (MonoDiab)
- Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 2 (MEN2)
- Mutation scanning (MSCAN)
- Myotonic dystrophy (DM)
- Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Porphyrrias (POR)
- Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes (PW/AS)
- Retinoblastoma (RB)
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)
- Spinocerebellar ataxia's (SCA)
- Von Hippel Lindau Syndrome (VHL)
- Wilson disease (WIL)
- Y-Chromosome microdeletions (AZF - organised in conjunction with the EAA)

How much does it cost?

Participation in our EQA schemes requires that you become a registered member of the EMQN - there is an annual membership fee payable for this (currently 50€). Registered members get access to EQA scheme registration and the EMQN members' resource area (see our [terms and conditions](#)). Through our highly efficient, on-line services we offer very good



Membership

value for money. Schemes are typically priced at 275€ to 300€ each scheme with the option of a [reduced fees scheme](#) available to participants from developing countries.

What are the timescales?

Join the EMQN at any time, gaining access to our network resources and meetings. However, make sure that you join in time to register for your selected schemes. The closing date for scheme registration is towards the end of July every year, with a discount for members registering before 30th June. Schemes typically run from October to January, with final reporting in April.

The timetable for the 2010 scheme is as follows:

Activity	Start	Finish
EQA scheme registration	01.05.10	26.07.10
Sample distribution	October 10	October 10
Reporting period	01.10.10	16.01.11
Genotyping results published		Reporting date + 7 days
Scheme assessments	05.03.11	06.03.11
Lab results published	01.04.11	01.04.11
Appeals process	01.04.11	14.04.11
Final scheme report published	30.04.11	30.04.11