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# Accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard

Progress to date on the Cooperative  
Agreement

**Robyn Randolph, MS**

Specialist, Food Laboratory Accreditation

Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)

AAFCO Midyear Meeting - Mobile, AL

January 16-18, 2017

# Resources

- Food and Feed Testing Accreditation Discussion Board
  - On-line forum for the exchange of information related to becoming accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard
  - Open to state and local food and feed testing personnel
- Accreditation Resources
  - Public-facing site
  - Members only restricted site



# Training

- Available on the APHL.org website
  - 18 webinars posted
  - Recorded presentations of past meetings
- Basic QMS webinar series / New-hire ISO/IEC 17025 training modules
- Filth training workshop
- 2017 Laboratory Accreditation Meeting in conjunction with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA)
  - January 23-26, 2017 in St. Petersburg, FL



# PFP Laboratory Science Workgroup

- Project Manager role
- Face-to-face meeting in Kansas City, MO
  - Led to collaborations with other workgroups (IT, Outreach, Compliance & Enforcement)
- Projects
  - Laboratory Best Practices Manual (Draft)
  - Current Major Laboratory Initiatives



# Current Major Laboratory Initiatives

The Partnership for Food Protection  
Laboratory Sciences Workgroup



AUGUST 2016



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# Data Acceptance White Paper

**Best Practices for  
Submission of Actionable  
Food and Feed Testing  
Data Generated in State  
and Local Laboratories**



# APHL Position Statement

- “FDA and the Use of Governmental Food and Feed Testing Laboratories”
- Recommends that FDA gives preference to state and local food and feed testing laboratories for domestic regulatory testing
  - Investment in accreditation and FERN
  - Strengthens an integrated food safety system
  - Capacity and capability to perform testing
- To be presented to APHL’s Board of Directors January 2017



# Standardizing Laboratory Competency

- Collaborative project with APHL, AFDO and IFPTI
- Laboratory Training Curriculum Framework Workgroup
  - Brings together SMEs to develop standard core competencies for food and feed testing laboratorians
  - Meets 2x per year in Silver Spring (May and October 2016)





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This Curriculum Framework is being built out through a cooperative agreement between AFDO, APHL, and IFPTI.

Interactive National Curriculum Standard (INCS): <http://www.ifpti.org/incs>

Note: Core content areas (common topics in which everyone at that Professional Level should be competent) are denoted by dotted borders.

# Accreditation Consultant

- APHL Consultant (Yvonne Salfinger) is working with 10 laboratories to help them achieve ISO 17025 accreditation
- In 2016, she made site visits to:
  - New Mexico State University Food Safety Laboratory
  - Michigan Department of Community Health
  - Hawaii Department of Health
  - Washington Department of Health



# Successes from the Field: The Impact of Laboratory Accreditation

- South Carolina finds *Listeria* in Ice Cream
- NE Department of Agriculture finds *Listeria* in Ice Cream
- NY and MA Form Raw Milk Collaboration
- Virginia DCLS finds *Listeria* in Sprouts
- OH “Farm to Fork” Perspective Keeps Food Safer





# *Listeria* in Sprouts Revealed Through Targeted Sampling and Testing in Virginia

Virginia's Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) is one of 30 state laboratories in the final year of a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) aimed at achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation to advance a nationally integrated food safety system. Accreditation adds confidence and credibility to laboratory data, and supports the traceability and accountability of laboratory results that are submitted to a food regulatory agency for surveillance, compliance, enforcement and foodborne illness outbreak actions.

As part of the cooperative agreement, states are required to work with regulators to develop sampling agreements



# Sustainability

- What happens at the end of Y05?
- States need federal funding to continue their ISO programs
- Advocating for continued funding

FOOD SAFETY

NOVEMBER 2016

## The Value of FDA's Investment in Laboratory Accreditation

### FDA's Investment

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has invested over \$50 million towards the accreditation of state laboratories to the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard (ISO 17025). Accreditation is an integral part of mutual reliance and a critical element of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). A fully functioning IFSS allows for acceptance of state data in federal enforcement actions and means FDA and states can act efficiently in the prevention of foodborne illnesses.



# Sustained Funding for ISO CAP Labs

- Letter to FDA supporting continued funding for ISO CAP laboratories
- Highlights:
  - FDA's investment into accreditation
  - Success stories from the labs
  - What could happen if funding is not sustained?



**THANK YOU**

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