VAMAS

Synthetic Biomaterials
Technical Work Area 40

International call for inter-laboratory comparisons (ILC) in response to the COVID 19 pandemic

Objectives

VAMAS TWA 40 invites proposals for inter-laboratory comparisons (ILC) to characterise and validate materials and methods aiming to address therapeutic and diagnostic challenges of the current pandemic.

The call focuses on biological materials with clearly demonstrated biological and/or physicochemical potential to merit an ILC.

The objective of the call is to accelerate support for the materials to enter the next phase of implementation, e.g. reference materials for clinic, industry, thereby tangibly impacting on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Background

VAMAS supports world trade in products dependent on advanced materials technologies, through international collaborative projects aimed at providing the technical basis for harmonized measurements, testing, specifications, and standards.

TWA 40 operates as a pre-normative vehicle to support the validation of biomaterials for life sciences and healthcare applications as well as other industry sectors that benefit from biomaterial developments, e.g. instrument manufacturers. The area works in partnership with metrology institutes, industry, research, academic and National Healthcare Organisations.

Of particular relevance to this call are proposals for methods and materials that seek to improve diagnostic testing for COVID-19 or support therapeutic or vaccine development.

The ILC studies help improve repeatability and reproducibility of proposed methods and materials, and where applicable, validate measurement results with traceability to the SI. These characteristics remain fundamental to ensuring the quality, approval and delivery of safe and effective products.

Format and requirements

TWA 40 provides coordination, assessment and expert advice for such projects. The development of the materials must be in an advanced stage at the time of submission. Technical leads are responsible for development of the protocols and ensure the supply of the materials with necessary documentation.

Relevant Committees
ISO/TC 276 - Biotechnology
ISO/TC 202 - Microbeam analysis
ISO/TC 229 - Nanotechnologies
ISO/TC 194 – Medical devices
ISO/TC 212 – Clinical Laboratory testing
Relevant Standards: ISO 15189: 2012, BS ISO 29301: 2010; ISO 15194: 2009; ISO 13022 2012

www.vamas.org

April 2020

Call for proposals

Tackling COVID-19: SARS-CoV-2 is the causative agent of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID 19). The WHO* has designated the current pandemic of COVID 19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The virus's sequence and structure have been solved, with the virus particles exhibiting characteristic spike proteins (Wrapp *et al*., 2020), which constitute key target for therapeutic interventions, vaccine and diagnostic developments. At the time of releasing this call, there are 1,901 projects registered as a Covid-19 response for clinical trials**.

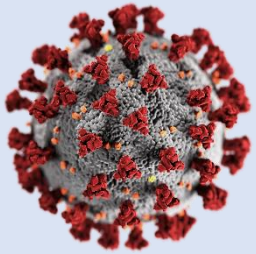

Image: Visualization of SARS-CoV-2. Courtesy of Jeremy Bishop on Unsplash

Work Programme

Stage 1: submission of a one page overview of the proposed ILC with key objectives and preliminary data to the call coordinator. The proposal is reviewed and a response will be sent to the proposer within a week.

Stage 2: invited proposals develop ILC protocols and confirm participating organisations, with optional support from the call coordinator (month 1). The project overview is published on the VAMAS website (month 1). The ILC teams initiate the study (month 4).

Stage 3: analysis of results and submission of ILC reports to the TWA 40 Chair (month 5).

Deliverables and Dissemination

VAMAS Technical report, peer-reviewed publications, good practice guidelines and technical specifications of validated materials.

Funding

Project leaders and participants fund their own involvement in the project.

Additional Resources:

World Health Organization*:
https://www.who.int/publications-detail

Clinical Pharmacology:
https://www.clinicalpharmacology.com

Medscape drug reference:
https://reference.medscape.com

Clinical trials database:**
https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/search

Centre for Disease Control and Prevention:
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/iso.html

NPL Training courses on measurements:
https://training.npl.co.uk/sector/e-learning-courses/#ui-id-1 (free until 30/06/2020)

International participation

The call is open for proposal submissions from May 2020

For more information on participation, please contact:

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