Call for participation:
Global HPV DNA Screening Proficiency Panel 2025 (597)

External quality assessment for laboratories that perform **HPV screening**.
Testing for oncogenic HPV in cervical cancer screening is a globally recommended health policy. For HPV screening, it is important to detect the most carcinogenic viruses (HPV16 and 18) at high sensitivity, but for less carcinogenic viruses it is not important to determine the exact type. Complete HPV genotyping is particularly important for vaccinology, but as the HPV genotyping proficiency panel contains 44 challenge samples, many laboratories have asked for a smaller proficiency panel tailored to what is important for assessing the quality of HPV screening services.

Participant laboratories will be asked to perform HPV screening using one or more of their usual HPV screening assays on the 13 challenge samples in this panel. The panel will evaluate the detection of the major oncogenic HPV types as well as detection of other oncogenic HPV types in groups.

Composition of sample material
The panel consists of 13 samples containing purified whole genomic plasmids of **HPV 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 68a** and **68b** in a background of human cellular DNA. Each sample may contain either no HPV, single HPV types or a mixture of HPV types at varying concentrations.

Participation fee
The price for one panel (13 samples as described above) is 460 Euros for commercial entities and 190 Euros for academic entities including shipping costs. Participants from low and lower middle-income counties (World Bank classification with GNI (gross national income) per capita: <4045 USD) can apply for waiving of fee. Laboratories that have outstanding payments from past Global HPV proficiency panels will need to clear their debts before their registration is accepted.

Data submission
The International HPV Reference Laboratory in Sweden is organizing this study in collaboration with the Swedish external quality assurance provider Equalis AB, who is responsible for management and distribution. Laboratories that have more than one assay are encouraged to provide results on each assay they commonly use. Data submitted will become the property of the organizers and may be analyzed for publication by the Global HPV reference laboratories either as an internal document or peer reviewed manuscript. All results will be handled in a coded anonymous fashion, with summaries grouped by method. The code linking data to originating laboratories will be kept confidential. Laboratories that provide data within the required time-frame will receive a copy of their own results and the summary data.

Scientific issues
Dr. Joakim Dillner
HPV International Reference Laboratory, Sweden
Center for Cervical Cancer Prevention
E-mail: joakim.dillner@ki.se or www.hpvcenter.se

Registration

Application forms for the 2025 panel can be found at: equalis.se

Important

- If an import permit is required to send samples to you, please send it to us by e-mail to info@equalis.se

Preliminary dates

22nd of April 2025:	Registration for participation opens.
22nd of June 2025:	Registration for participation closes.
October 2025:	Dispatch of panels begins.
15th of December 2025:	Last day for submitting results.
February 2025:	Individual participant report compared to the expected value.
March/April 2025:	Final report compiled.

Participation, management and practical issues

Equalis AB, Sweden www.equalis.se

E-mail: HPV@equalis.se