Call for participation:
Global HPV DNA Typing Proficiency Panel 2025 (456)

Accurate and internationally comparable **HPV DNA detection and typing** methodology is an essential component in research on HPV vaccines and in effective implementation and monitoring. A WHO initiative established a Global HPV LabNet to support the worldwide implementation of HPV vaccines through improved laboratory standardization and quality assurance of HPV testing and typing methods to promote international comparability of results. The major methods for achieving progress towards this goal are developing international biological standards as well as preparing and validating proficiency panels to qualify methods.

We are now seeking international participation in an international HPV DNA testing and typing proficiency study. Laboratories that are or will be involved in HPV surveillance and/or vaccine development are particularly welcome.
Participant laboratories will be asked to perform HPV typing using one or more of their usual assays on the 44 challenges in this panel. This challenge is intended to evaluate assays that type HPV and is not appropriate for assays that detect HPV in general or grouped as high risk/low risk.

Composition of sample material

- 41 samples containing purified whole genomic plasmids of **HPV 6, 11, 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.
- 3 samples containing cell suspensions to allow evaluation of DNA extraction methods.

Participation fee

Participation in the proficiency study is subject to a participation fee per panel consisting of 44 samples: 915 Euros for commercial entities and 365 Euros for academic entities including shipping costs. Participants from low and lower middle-income countries (World Bank classification with GNI (gross national income) per capita: <4045USD) 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

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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

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