

Genetic Laboratory Network (UKHCDO-GLN)

Background

The UKHCDO GLN was formed in 2002, arising out of the UKHCDO Genetic Working Party, with the aim of improving collaboration between laboratories and of ensuring quality and equity of service across the U.K. The network currently comprises 13 laboratories, 12 across the UK plus Dublin, involved in the molecular genetic analysis of haemophilia and related inherited bleeding disorders (many of the laboratories are also involved in other areas as well).

Representatives of the Network attend meetings of the UK Genetic Testing Network (UKGTN) and the UKHCDO GWP.

Meetings

The UKHCDO GLN holds bi-annual meetings and met on 23 November 2015 in Cambridge and 17 May 2016 in Oxford. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 November in Birmingham.

Chair & Secretary

Steve Keeney continued as Chair. Vince Jenkins stepped down from his Secretary role and Catriona Keenan took over this function.

Current activities

1. [UK Genetic Testing Network \(UKGTN\) revised remit – UKHCDO-GLN registration](#)

Individual UKHCDO GLN labs that are not registered with the UKGTN had previously been advised that they may wish to consider applying for membership if they perceive it is in their interest. The UKGTN has since run a “grandfathering” exercise to allow laboratories to submit pared back additional provider forms for inclusion on the UKGTN providers list. Several eligible laboratories (already UKGTN registered) went through this process. Note that the NHS England genetic laboratory re-designation exercise is still ongoing.

2. [Laboratory Audit – ISO 15189](#)

Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) have implemented the ISO 15189 quality standard applicable to laboratories. The GLN continues to share practical advice and knowledge as the revised inspection process is applied to member laboratories, sharing examples of good practice and implementing a sample exchange scheme for disorders not covered by external quality assessment.

3. [National Haemophilia Database Genetics Portal](#)

The inclusion of a portal to the National Haemophilia Database for the upload of genetic mutation data is in use across the GLN. Problems had been encountered in terms of matching input data with that on the NHD, leading to data entry failure in a significant number of cases. Consultation between the GLN and NHD has led to modification of data entry criteria and these problems have largely been eliminated.

4. Bleeding Disorder Genetic Analysis Best Practice Guidelines

The BPGs for Haemophilia A and Haemophilia B are still considered current, although nearing a review. The VWD genetic analysis guideline update is ongoing.

5. Haemophilia Genetics NEQAS scheme

The Haemophilia Genetics EQA scheme, run by UK NEQAS in Sheffield, continues with bi-annual distributions. The results for each round of the scheme are reviewed and discussed at the following network meeting and any relevant comments fed back to the steering group. The scheme currently includes *F8*, *F9* and *VWF* gene analysis.

6. Participation in other groups

A representative from the network attends the:

- Clinical and Scientific Advisory Group UK Genetics Testing Network (see item 1 above)
- Representatives of the Network input to the UKHCDO GWP.

Steve Keeney
Chairman, UKHCDO Genetic Laboratory Network
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