



Serology QAP News



Wishing you all the best for 2012



It's 'that time' of the year again, as other organisations may be winding down for the year, we are ramping up for the busiest time of the year. As we reach the end of another year we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the RCPA Serology QAP, including our invaluable collaborators and of course, you, our participants. We hope the program this year has provided valuable QA, assisting your laboratory in assessing performance and assuring the quality of your results. We have many more developments in store for the future... Stay tuned....

The enrolment of participants for 2012 is well underway and we are very pleased that many participants have returned their enrolments early... This will help streamline our packing period and ensure we can deliver your requests prior to the commencement of the surveys in the new year. Inside is some important enrolment news for you to peruse to prepare for next year including the 'new look' Participant Handbook.

In this issue we have included a page of the latest news, to keep you up-to-date with the latest happenings, a meeting review (NZIMLS) and lots of meetings for your diary for next year.

We are still interested in receiving Case Studies for the Specimen Free Module, we would love everyone to submit an entry and in turn assist us with the educational module of the program. Refer inside for further information.

Shortly, we will also be welcoming two new staff members to the team, we will introduce them in the next issue.

We appreciate all of your feedback throughout the year and look forward to working with you in 2012....

We would like to wish you all the best for the new year...



Till next time... The Serology QAP Team

Susan Badman (Program Manager),
Deane Byers (Senior Scientist),
Rita Devarajo (Administration Officer),
Shabeena Ali (Technical Officer),
Ricky Widjaja (Scientific Officer),
Professor William Rawlinson (Chair)



In this issue...

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- We are moving!

Enrolment News...

Do you have an interesting
Case Study/Scenario?

Meeting Reviews
- NZIMLS 2011

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Pilot Study for POC for Influenza & RSV Antigen

As mentioned in the last newsletter we are running a pilot study for the detection of Influenza and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) antigen using POC tests prior to surveys commencing in 2012. We will be targeting participants who have enrolled for 2012 to participate in the survey. The specimens will mimic a swab sample and will be an inactivated virus in a buffered solution. Result entry would be through the SQAP website using your existing participant number and password. We will be in touch...

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Contact us:	Telephone: +612 9045 6070	Fax: +612 9779 5916	Email: serology@rcpaqap.com.au	Web: www.rcpaqap.com.au/serology
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Latest News...

Change in Molecular HPV Specimens

Since the RCPA Serology QAP introduction of QA for Molecular Human Papillomavirus (HPV), we have offered two different specimen types, dry swabs and ThinPreps/Preservcyt samples. Generally these specimens have been received and performed well by participants. However, many of the assays in use have not been validated for the use of swabs, therefore there were some participants who preferred not to test the swab samples.

In 2012, following discussions with our collaborators, A/Prof Sepehr Tabrizi and Anna-Maria Costa, (Women and Children's Hospital in Vic), we have decided to no longer offer the dry swabs in this module and instead provide four ThinPrep/Preservcyt samples. This means that all of the samples will be more representative of 'real' specimens. If you have any feedback in respect to this change please let us know.

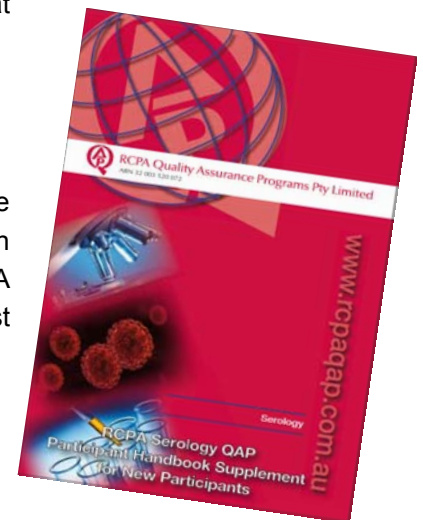
On-line Enrolment 2012 (Australia only)

This year the RCPA QAP introduced on-line enrolment, which is currently only available for Australian participants. Many participants would have already tried this new feature and except for a few initial hiccups, it seems to be progressing well.

We would like to remind participants that if they have a SQAP Serology Participant number and a SQAP Molecular Participant number they **MUST** enrol under each separate number. This ensures that the right people receive all of the correct folders and specimens for 2012.

Participant Handbook 2012

This year there have been noticeable changes to the name and look of the Participation Booklet, now called the Participant Handbook, which is now red in colour. The information still remains an important part of the RCPA Serology QA Program and we encourage everyone to read the Participant Handbook, it can assist with many of your queries...



The RCPA Serology QAP is moving!

The RCPA Quality Assurance Programs Pty Ltd is creating a "Centre of Excellence" consolidating many of its Programs (including Serology) on a single purpose-built campus.

The Serology Program is currently located in North Ryde, NSW Australia, but will be re-locating to our purpose-built "Centre of Excellence" facility in St Leonards, NSW Australia in the last half of 2012.

Please note, our website, e-mail and telephone numbers will remain the same after the move to the "Centre of Excellence". Our new mailing address and fax number will be distributed to participants when known.

We look forward to sharing our moving experience with you all...

Farewell to Aditi...

At the end of September we said a sad farewell to Aditi Thakkar (Technical Officer), who worked with us for nearly 2 years. Aditi is returning to India for an extended period, we are very sad to see her go, but wish her the best of luck in the future and hope to see her back soon!



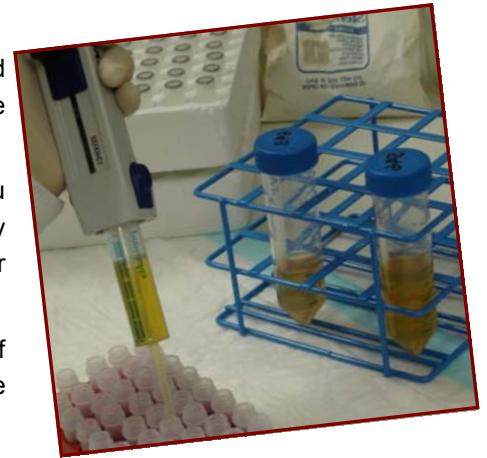
Enrolment News

RCPA Serology QAP Enrolment - 2012

The enrolment process is underway for the 2012 program. If you have not attended to this yet please keep in mind that you might miss out on the first survey if you leave it too long!!

Just a reminder that this year you just need to enrol for the specimens that you require... NOT the whole module, this means, for example, that if your lab only performs Cryptococcus antigen testing from the Parasite & Spirochaete module your laboratory will be able to purchase just the Cryptococcus part of the module.

The 'unit price' has been calculated based on many factors, including the number of surveys/year, difficulty obtaining the specimens, volumes required and the complexity of the report collation and review.



RCPA Serology QAP Information Folder - 2012

If you have enrolled prior to mid December, by the end of January your laboratory should receive the SQAP Information Folder for 2012, **RED for Serology** and **BLUE for Molecular**. This will contain important information and it is imperative that you and your back-up people read the contents carefully. The contents include;

- 2011 Certificate of Participation (if your lab participated in 2011)
- 2012 Participant Handbook
- 2012 Survey Open and Due Date Schedules
- Other important information - please read...



RCPA Serology QAP Specimens - 2012

You should also receive the Serology QAP Specimens for 2012 by the end of January if enrolled prior to mid-December.

After checking the specimens and storing them correctly in a -20°C or -70/-80°C freezer, (QuantiferonTB & HPV DNA refrigerate) all you need to do is wait for the opening date of your surveys to test the specimens.

Please use the schedule (**GREEN for Serology** and **YELLOW for Molecular**) to keep track of the survey open/due dates - post on prominent board in your lab.



Enrolment Queries

All enrolment queries can be handled by the Enrolment Office enrolment@rcpaqap.com.au; if they are unable to answer your query they will redirect it to us.

There has been a few queries regarding the **MDF (Molecular Diagnostics Freight) charge**, this is for Molecular Diagnostic participants enrolling in modules requiring dry ice. This charge is for the freight of the specimens and includes shipment, packaging and dry ice. This charge varies for each destination according to the dry ice required and destination.

Meeting Reviews

NZIMLS Immunology SIG Meeting NZ

Each year, a member of the Serology QAP Team looks forward to attending and presenting at the annual Immunology [includes Serology] Special Interest Group Meeting in New Zealand. This year the meeting was held on the weekend of the 5th November at Otago Museum, in beautiful but cold Dunedin on the south island.

This year Susan attended the meeting presenting 'Six months later, what have we learnt from the new RCPA Serology QAP scoring system?'. The topics for the talks were as interesting as they were varied. 'The serum that shagged me' by Rodger Linton - with a title like that it was intriguing to listen to an unusual HBV case presentation seen in Rodger's lab. From ALPS (Autoimmune Lymphoproliferative Syndrome) to Syphilis there was something for everyone including future directions with massively parallel sequencing. Evelinda de Geest also gave an insightful presentation of disaster recovery planning entitled 'The Icing on the Cake', from the lessons learnt from the February earthquake in Christchurch.



Susan would like to thank the meeting organisers for affording the opportunity of presenting at this excellent meeting and would recommend it to everyone. It was also great to finally meet many of our NZ participants and put faces to names.



Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Molecular Microbiology Meeting**, 8 March 2012, Sydney, NSW. <http://mmm.mtci.com.au>
- ▶ **RCPA Pathology Update Meeting**, 9 – 11 March 2012, Sydney, NSW. www.rcpa.edu.au/pathologyupdate
- ▶ **APCMV 2012 (Asia-Pacific Congress of Medical Virology)**, 6 – 8 June 2012, Adelaide, SA. <http://sapmea.asn.au/conventions/apcmv2012>
- ▶ **ASM (Australian Society for Microbiology) Annual Conference**, 2 – 5 July 2012, Brisbane, Qld. www.asm2012.org
- ▶ **NRL Annual Workshop**, 31 July – 3 August 2012, Melbourne, Vic. www.nrl.gov.au
- ▶ **VIM August 2012**, 16 – 18 August 2012, Katoomba, NSW. <http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Continuing/VIM/VIM2012.htm>
- ▶ **AIMS National Scientific Meeting**, 24 – 27 September 2012, Darwin, NT. <http://www.aims.org.au>





Case Studies / Scenarios for 2012

*Do you have some interesting results
& wondered how other labs might interpret them?
What other tests might another lab perform?
What does it all mean?*



Last year the SQAP decided to open the floor to you, the participants, to help find some interesting case studies/scenarios for the Specimen Free module and we were pleasantly surprised with the results.

To give you an overview, there have been many varied topics, some on specific analytes such as: Avian Influenza (H5N1), Leptospirosis, CMV, Toxoplasma, EBV and pertussis. There have also been some more broader topics including acute viral infection, Occupational Health and Safety, PCR and clinical errors. If you are interested in reviewing any of these reports to see the types of cases/scenarios and the questions posed please refer to the SQAP website under Login/Member services/Specimen Case Study Reports see below.

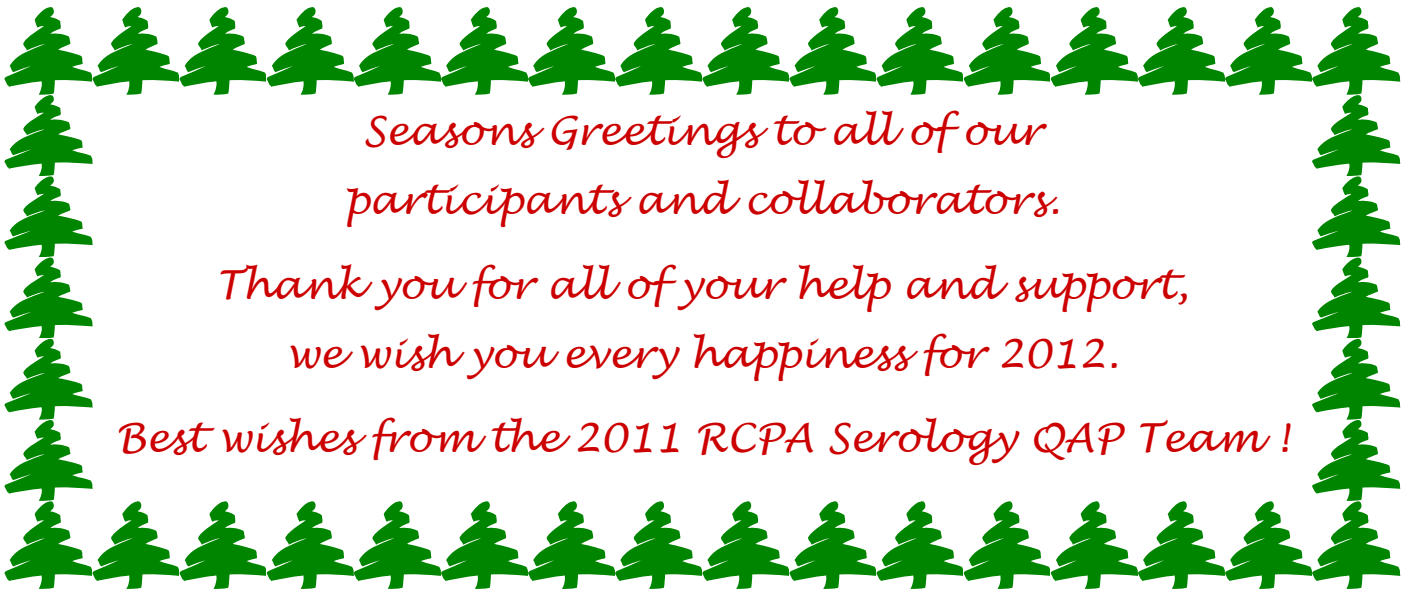
The Specimen Free Module was started as a way to address some topics which could not be addressed with specimens (due to the difficulty in obtaining the specimens for all to test) or tackle interesting cases which some laboratories would not normally be exposed to.

In 2012, we would like to feature six case studies/scenarios in this module and are offering \$250 per submission of a case study/scenario which your laboratory can use towards a staff morning tea or Christmas party...

In order to have your submission approved you must provide the scenario or case study with 3 or 4 questions as well as provide the answers. The questions should not be too open ended as the answers become too verbose and are very difficult to collate, multiple choice is okay. The SQAP collate the answers and present graphs and tables to assist in the presentation of the answers. If you would like to review the results prior to supplying the answers, you will need to let us know in your original submission. It must be noted that the reward for the case study/scenario submission will not be forwarded prior to answers or suggestions being provided.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to share your case/scenario and 'pick your colleagues brains', whilst earning a staff morning tea or Christmas party in the process!!! Why not get your lab together for a group submission??

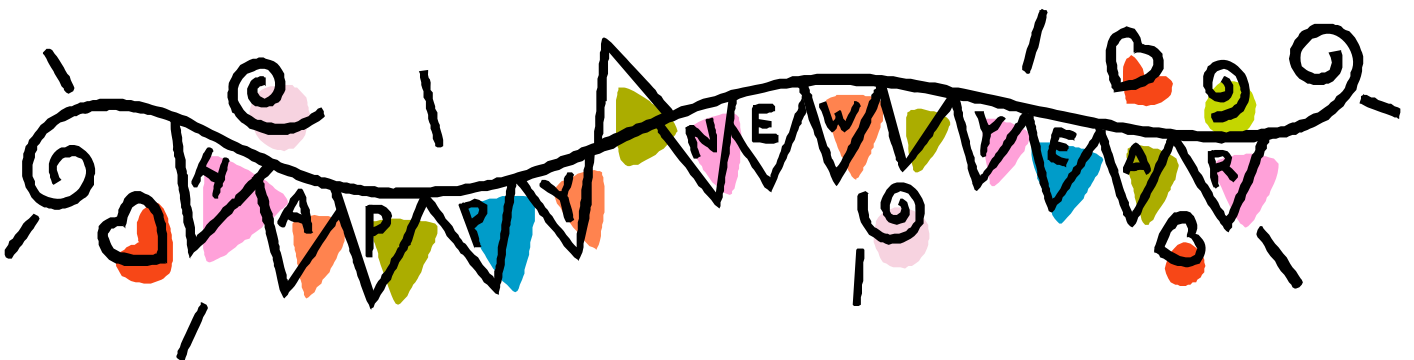
We look forward to receiving your submissions, please contact the SQAP - serology@rcpaqap.com.au



Seasons Greetings to all of our participants and collaborators.

Thank you for all of your help and support, we wish you every happiness for 2012.

Best wishes from the 2011 RCPA Serology QAP Team !



Thank you for reading this issue of Serology QAP News !

