



Health Protection Agency

Centre for Infections

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Proficiency Testing Unit

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Dear Participant

HPA Executive Steering Group for Food and Water Microbiology Schemes

As we advised you in our Newsletter in July 2009, the Executive Groups for the HPA food and water microbiology EQA schemes were combined to form a single Steering Group. The remit of the Group is to advise the Scheme Co-ordinator on the overall design and operation of the schemes, including aspects such as:

- appropriateness of the examinations
- nature of the samples distributed
- number and frequency of sample distributions
- target values
- data analysis and performance assessment
- data presentation
- communication with participants, including meetings, newsletters, educational activities
- communication with the food and water industries
- research and development for the schemes

Further details about the remit are available from our website.

Members of the current Steering Group are as follows:

Dr Vivienne James	Chair, HPA, Director UKNEQAS for clinical microbiology	Dr Nicola Lang	HPA Scheme Manager
Julie Russell	Secretary, HPA Food and Water Schemes Co-ordinator	Dr John Lee	HPA Water Scheme Consultant
Nick Andrews	HPA Consultant Statistician	Dr Chris Little	HPA Food Scheme Consultant
Peter Boyd	HPA Water Scheme Consultant	Dr Jim McLauchlin	HPA Food & Water Consultant
Bridgette Clarke	Bakkavör Foods: Participant & food industry representative	Heena Shah	HPA Scheme Data Analyst
Dr Simon Cole	Wessex Water: Water industry representative	Chris Sharpe	HPA participant representative and UKAS assessor
David Conway	HPA Business Manager	Dr Susanne Surman-Lee	HPA Food & Water Consultant
Melody Greenwood	Independent advisor for food and water; participant representative and UKAS assessor	Keith Todd	HPA participant representative
Samantha Kirk	Tesco: Food industry representative	Kevin Williamson	HPA participant representative

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Eric Bolton, a former Scheme Consultant for the food microbiology schemes. Eric has retired from the Group after providing many years of valuable support and advice. Dr Jim McLauchlin replaces Eric as the Scheme Consultant for the relevant schemes.

Please contact me if you require any further information about the Steering Group or would like to be considered for membership.

With kind regards

Julie E. Russell
Head of FEPTU