

Report from the IUIS Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee – 2017/2018

The QAS Committee comprises seven subcommittees

- Allergen Standardization - Stefan Vieths - Germany
- Autoantibodies in Rheumatic and Related Diseases – Edward Chan - USA
- Complement – Michael Kirschfink - Germany
- Immune Therapy - Clemens Scheinecker - Austria
- Immunological Diagnosis - Vladka Čurin Šerbec - Slovenia (discontinued)
- Leukocytes – Pablo Engel – Spain
- Organ-Specific Autoantibodies - Alberto Falorni – Italy

Assessment of the activity status of the subcommittees

There is some heterogeneity in the degree of activity of the several committees. The most active subcommittees are the Allergen Standardization Subcommittee, the Autoantibodies in Rheumatic and Related Diseases Subcommittee, the Complement Subcommittee, and the Leukocyte Subcommittee. The activity status of the Immune Therapy Subcommittee is not certain due to scarce interaction with Clemens Scheinecker. The Organ-Specific Autoantibody Subcommittee shows a low degree of activity. The Immunological Diagnosis Subcommittee is not active at all. I had a positive interaction with Vladka Čurin Šerbec, who reported that she could not really engage the subcommittee, partially due to personal time restriction and partially due to the understanding that there is extensive interaction of the Immunological Diagnosis Subcommittee target issues with all the other subcommittees. In other words, all the other subcommittees deal substantially with immunological diagnosis. Therefore, I propose that the Immunological Diagnosis Subcommittee be discontinued, a proposition that was agreed upon by Vladka Čurin Šerbec.

Considerations on the comprehensiveness of the Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee

My understanding is that the QAS Committee addresses quality assessment and standardization regarding laboratory reagents and procedures in immunology. With that in mind, the QAS Committee covers six areas of interest. It may be worthwhile considering the adequacy of expanding the activities of the QAS Committee to areas in immunology that are currently not addressed. Some that come to my mind include: 1) immunologic diagnosis of infectious diseases; 2) MHC allele determination; 3) laboratory assays for diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency (inborn errors of immunity). I propose we discuss how pertinent it would be to create QAS subcommittees for additional areas.

Activities in 2017

- 1) Allergen Subcommittee
 - Meeting of IUIS Allergen Standardization SubCommittee at the 15th International Paul-Ehrlich-Seminar, Bad Homburg, September 7, 2017.
 - Publication “Standardization of allergen products: 3. Validation of candidate European Pharmacopoeia standard methods for quantification of major birch allergen Bet v 1”. Allergy 2016; 71:1414-24;

- Publication "Validation of ELIS A methods for quantification of the major birch allergen. Pharmeuropa Bio & Scientific Notes; 2017.
 - Publication "Bet v 1 (BSP 090)"
 - Publication "Overview on the activities of the IUIS Allergen Subcommittee" Molecular Immunology 2018; doi 10.1016/j.molimm.2018.03.003.
- 2) Autoantibody Standardization Subcommittee
 - Third International Autoantibody Standardization workshop, Dresden, September 26, 2017.
 - Fourth International Consensus on ANA Patterns workshop, Dresden, September 26, 2017.
 - IUIS Autoantibody Standardization Subcommittee Annual Study Group "Autoantibodies in Diagnosis and Follow up of Rheumatic Diseases", San Diego, November 5, 2017.
 - Update on International Standards for ANA testing and Clinical Reporting, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong, December 8, 2017.
 - 3) Complement Subcommittee
 - European Complement Network meeting – Copenhagen.
 - Laboratory rounds 6 – 7: External Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Complement with distribution of samples to several laboratories.
 - Establishment of website <https://www.complement.org/committee>.
 - 4) Immune Therapy Subcommittee
 - Nothing to declare
 - 5) Leukocyte Subcommittee
 - 2nd EuroMAbNet Ab Validation Workshop. Madrid, May 26th, 2017.
 - The problems arising from poor antibody validation. Presentation at the 2nd EuroMAbNet Ab Validation Workshop. Madrid, May, 2017.
 - Validation of CD85 family mAbs.
 - Monoclonal antibodies for studying leukocyte cell-surface molecules. Presentation at Euromedlab. Athens, June 2017.
 - Improvement of the HCDM/HLDA web www.hcdm.org.
 - Completion of the first phase of the CD Maps project (CD1 – CD100).
 - 6) Organ-Specific Autoantibodies
 - Nothing to declare.

Activities planned for 2018

- 1) QAS Committee
 - Publication of short notes for the website: recently published "XXXXX" by Luis Andrade; more to come along the year.
 - Setting up a Research Topic issue in Frontiers in Immunology addressing several aspects of quality assessment and standardization in immunology.
 - Coordinated action to raise unrestricted funds for specific actions of each subcommittee.
- 2) Allergen Subcommittee
 - Development of recombinant allergen standards and ELISA methods for allergen quantification (in collaboration with the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines).
 - Intensify collaboration with IUIS Allergen Nomenclature Subcommittee.
- 3) Autoantibody Standardization Subcommittee

- International Consensus on ANA Patterns (ICAP) Course, Lisbon, May 17, 2018, within the 11th International Congress of Autoimmunity.
 - AACC ANA IFA workshop, Chicago, July 29, 2018.
 - AACC - Short Course “Developing Standards in ANA IFA - Interpretation and Reporting”, Chicago, July 30, 2018.
 - International Consensus on ANA Patterns Practical Course (6 hours), Shenzhen, October 12, 2018.
 - IUIS Autoantibody Standardization Subcommittee Annual Study Group “Autoantibodies in Diagnosis and Follow up of Rheumatic Diseases”, Chicago, October 22, 2018.
- 4) Complement Subcommittee
- Laboratory rounds 8 – 9: External Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Complement.
- 5) Immune Therapy Subcommittee
- Nothing to declare.
- 6) Leukocyte Subcommittee
- Publishing the new nomenclature of the CD85 family.
 - Leukocyte Subcommittee: HLDA11 Workshop focused on Seven-span receptors and ion channels.
 - Publishing the results of the CDMaps project.
 - Antibody Validation for Flow Cytometry. Presentation at the 33rd Congress of the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry. Prague, May 2018.
- 7) Organ-Specific Autoantibodies
- Nothing to declare.

Luís Andrade; May 2018.