

Committee Request for Board Action: None

54 attendees participated remotely, including representatives from 28 BACWA member agencies and the Regional Water Board.

Simplifying Batch Review with an Automated Evaluation Solution: Data Processing and Reporting for GC-MS Workflows

Griselda Martinez, Chemist III at Central San, demonstrated a software tool that she created to streamline internal review of GC-MS analytical results. Previously, laboratory staff struggled with copying-and-pasting reports from one software system to another, which was labor intensive and error-prone. Central San recently implemented MassHunter software for GC-MS, which supports batch processing while offering improved traceability and QA/QC functionality. However, it is also complex to navigate. The integrated data review tool that Griselda created uses custom reports from MassHunter that are imported into Excel to perform additional calculations, apply complex QC logic and data validation, and automatically organize the data. Most importantly, the tool formats GS-MS data to facilitate the human review process and subsequent upload into LIMS. The tool relies on Excel Macros coded using VBA. Despite the automation of data formatting, the laboratory analyst remains fully in charge of data review. For more information, contact [Griselda Martinez](#).

Enterolert Quality Control and Proficiency Testing Information

Attendees discussed recent Enterolert quality control issues. Several labs have experienced issues with low recovery or low bias when using pure-strain microbiological reference standards for quality control tests or proficiency tests (PTs). Vendors have confirmed that the low recovery for pure enterococcus strains is a known issue. Attendees shared their personal experiences with reagents from specific vendors (e.g., Phenova, NSI, IDEXX, ERA); some labs have been able to avoid the problem by switching suppliers or ordering new batches of reference standards. Low recovery can prevent a serious challenge to lab operations because it can result in failed PTs and subsequent loss of lab accreditation. The committee leaders will coordinate with affected BACWA members and the CWEA Lab Committee to communicate about this problem with ELAP and suppliers.

Discussion Items and Announcements

- **ELAP Full TNI Expansion Option.** ELAP is working to create a voluntary full TNI accreditation option, and plans to circulate a survey soon to gauge interest in the laboratory community. For more information, see this [ELAP video](#). Attendees discussed that full TNI standards are also undergoing an update; in the future, there may be fewer or no differences between TNI and TNI-2.
- **Microplastics.** Jesse McDermott (Central San) is the committee's representative to the [RMP Microplastics Work Group](#), which will hold its annual meeting on April 30th. Bay Area wastewater has been analyzed for microplastics in the past, but attendees agreed that it may be worth re-sampling if and when there are significant changes to sample collection or analysis methods.
- **Nutrients Watershed Permit Compliance.** BACWA has submitted the [Group Annual Report](#).
- **DMR Reporting** is still broken; continue to unlink DMRs before submitting electronic self-monitoring reports. Contact your NPDES permit case handler to resolve reporting violations.
- The RMP Emerging Contaminant Workgroup annual meeting will be held April 22-23.
- The [BACWA Annual Members Meeting](#) will be held May 15th in Berkeley. Register by May 6.
- [Rick Marshall](#) is offering an activated sludge training webinar series in May and June.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9th, 10 AM – 12:30 PM (**Note time extension**) - The agenda will include three presentations from LabMODO, EBMUD, and San Jose on the topic of laboratory document and records management.