

Summary of the 2nd meeting of the Life Sciences Accreditation Advisory Committee

Changes to Committee Membership

Since the 2018 meeting the following changes to the membership of the Committee have been made:

Mr Simon Mills has been appointed as Chair of the Committee.

Ms Julie Maczuga has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Committee

Dr Lindsay Swinden has been appointed to the Committee to provide expertise in the area of food chemistry.

Dr Mark Dawson has been appointed to the Committee to provide expertise in the area of food microbiology.

Mr David Sheehan has been appointed to the Committee to provide expertise in the area of water microbiology.

Dr Karin Kassahn has been appointed to the Committee to provide expertise in the area of molecular testing and bioinformatics

Dr Donald Neale has been appointed to the Committee to provide expertise in the area of air quality testing.

Reports from Members included the following points

- Accreditation criteria for molecular testing to be developed to include new techniques such as digital PCR.
- European Directorate for Quality of Medicines and Healthcare revising MU guidance publication due mid 2019.
- Increase in requests for plant pathology testing of seeds intended for export.
- Strong interest in the NMI PFAS Proficiency Program.
- Guidelines under development for a total oxidisable pre-cursor assay (TOPA) for PFAS.
- PFAS analyte standards need to include both linear and branched isomers where available.
- Reporting of MU constrained by the lack of data entry capacity of databases when data is uploaded electronically.
- Standards Australia Committee EV-008 looking for technical experts to assist with the proposed adoption of ISO 5667 Water Quality Sampling as an Australian Standard.
- Further stakeholder engagement to be undertaken related to the revision of assessment criteria related to asbestos testing and the collection of air samples and volume measurement.
- Potential for LC-MS-MS to be used a confirmatory technique for allergens testing.
- Identification and sizing of microplastics likely to be a new area of accreditation.

Next meeting of the Committee scheduled for March/April 2020.