Future QAS Survey

Survey Information:
- Multiple choice questions with **circular options** allow only a **single selection.**
- Multiple choice questions with **square options** allow for **multiple selections.**

Save responses for each page by clicking 'next'. **The survey can be continued or responses can be edited if using the same link on the same device (i.e., same IP address) until the survey closes.** You will have an option to email your responses to yourself on the final page of the survey.

1. Who is your current employer (e.g., laboratory, organization)?

2. What is your current title/role(s)?

- [ ] DNA Technical Leader
- [ ] Quality Manager or QA Support Staff
- [ ] Laboratory Director or Executive Management
- [ ] DNA/Biology Supervisor
- [ ] DNA Analyst
- [ ] CODIS Administrator or Alternate
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] Non-laboratory respondent

3. If you are not affiliated with a DNA laboratory, what is your connection to the QAS?

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4. In your opinion, what is the objective of the QAS?

5. Do the current QAS meet that purpose?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

6. If "No" above, where are they most lacking?

7. Are there QAS requirements that are more of an administrative burden than a benefit to your quality system?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

8. If "Yes" to question 7, please describe which standards.

9. What are you/your lab’s biggest hurdles/frustrations/annoyances within the QAS?

10. Are there QAS requirements that you feel are valuable despite the effort because they improve the quality of your DNA work/product(s)?

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11. Changing the QAS to require 1 proficiency test (PT) per year would be of value to our laboratory:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral / Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A - Non-laboratory respondent
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

12. If you chose “disagree” or “strongly disagree,” please explain.

13. If 1 PT per year, would you prefer:

- ◯ Test all technologies/typing test kits/methodologies every year
- ◯ Test all technologies/typing test kits/methodologies every two years
- ◯ Test all technologies/typing test kits/methodologies every four-year accreditation cycle
- ◯ I'd prefer to continue with 2 PTs annually testing all technologies/typing test kits/methodologies every year
- ◯ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

14. Does your lab use other approaches for monitoring the performance of DNA personnel or processes that aren't in the QAS? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Intralaboratory comparisons (i.e., in-house prepared sample sets)
- ☐ Interlaboratory comparisons (i.e., externally exchanged sample sets)
- ☐ Observations
- ☐ Written or oral examinations (beyond those used in training)
- ☐ Mixture interpretation exercises
- ☐ Protocol verification (e.g., ANSI/ASB Standard 020)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ☐ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

15. Should the QAS require any other types of performance monitoring in addition to proficiency testing? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Intralaboratory comparisons (i.e., in-house prepared sample sets)
- ☐ Interlaboratory comparisons (i.e., externally exchanged sample sets)
- ☐ Observations
- ☐ Written or oral examinations (beyond those used in training)
- ☐ Mixture interpretation exercises
- ☐ Protocol verification (e.g., ANSI/ASB Standard 020)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  _____

16. If you selected other types of performance monitoring that the QAS should require, please describe what the QAS requirement(s) should be (e.g., annual observations, semi-annual mixture interpretation exercise with complex mixtures, biennial interlab comparisons).

_____

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17. How frequently has your lab encountered requests for retesting older extracts with insufficient reagent blank for additional testing? (Additional requirements for reagent blank controls were applicable to samples extracted on or after July 1, 2009)

- ◯ More than once per year
- ◯ Approximately once per year
- ◯ Less than once per year
- ◯ Less than once every 5 years
- ◯ Never
- ◯ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ◯ N/A - Databasing laboratory or Non-laboratory respondent

18. How often is your lab having to reinterpret legacy data?

- ◯ Weekly
- ◯ Monthly
- ◯ A few times a year
- ◯ Annually
- ◯ Less than Annually
- ◯ None that I know of since QAS2020
- ◯ N/A - We do not reinterpret legacy data
- ◯ N/A - We do not have any cases that used a legacy technology, typing test kit, or platform
- ◯ N/A - Databasing laboratory or Non-laboratory respondent

Please provide any additional context.

_____

19. Does your lab train analysts on the reinterpretation of legacy data?

- ☐ Yes, as part of the new analyst training program
- ☐ Yes, but legacy data training is provided once analysts have more experience
- ☐ No, but we have procedures to maintain or reestablish the technical skills and knowledge of previously qualified analysts
- ☐ N/A

Please provide a brief explanation of what is included in your training or maintenance program.

_____

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20. For each current QAS standard, indicate whether the requirements remain necessary or are redundant with ISO accreditation requirements:

	All the standards are still needed	Most of the standards are still needed	Some of the standards are still needed	Only a few of the standards are still needed	None of the standards are still needed	N/A - No opinion
3 QA Program	○	○	○	○	○	○
4 Organization and Management	○	○	○	○	○	○
5 Personnel	○	○	○	○	○	○
6 Training	○	○	○	○	○	○
7 Facilities and Evidence/Sample Control	○	○	○	○	○	○
8 Validation	○	○	○	○	○	○
9 Analytical Procedures	○	○	○	○	○	○
10 Equipment	○	○	○	○	○	○
11 Reporting/ Documentation	○	○	○	○	○	○
12 Review	○	○	○	○	○	○
13 Proficiency Testing	○	○	○	○	○	○
14 Corrective Action	○	○	○	○	○	○
15 Audits	○	○	○	○	○	○
16 Professional Development	○	○	○	○	○	○
17 Outsourcing	○	○	○	○	○	○
18 Rapid DNA at the Lab	○	○	○	○	○	○
19 Rapid DNA at a Partner Agency	○	○	○	○	○	○

21. General laboratory requirements on _____ should be removed from the QAS?

	Yes, the QAS requirements are redundant with accreditation	No, the additional QAS requirements are valuable	N/A - No Opinion
management structure	◯	◯	◯
evidence storage	◯	◯	◯
laboratory security	◯	◯	◯
chain of custody	◯	◯	◯
corrective action	◯	◯	◯

Other (please specify)

22. Please add any additional feedback to supplement your response(s) above.

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23. Other than the semi-annual requirement for proficiency testing (where accreditation requirements allow for annual performance monitoring in other disciplines), are there other areas in your laboratory's quality system that require DNA specific procedures/additional records because of the QAS?

24. Should the QAS shift from prescriptive requirements to more risk-based standards? [For example, instead of requiring the evaluation of critical reagents prior to use or specifying fixed performance check intervals, a risk-based approach would allow labs to set these requirements based on documented risk assessments.]

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

25. If yes, which, if any, of the following topics would you like to see have a more risk-based approach?

- [ ] Reagent blanks
- [ ] Amplification controls
- [ ] Sequencing controls
- [ ] Critical equipment/instrument maintenance
- [ ] Critical reagents
- [ ] Technical review
- [ ] Administrative review
- [ ] Other (please specify)

- [ ] None of the above

26. How has your lab incorporated a more risk-based approach into DNA testing? If you haven't yet, where would you like to?

27. How frequently would you estimate that the QAS required performance check of reagents or instruments has identified a quality issue in your lab?

- ◯ More than once per year
- ◯ Approximately once per year
- ◯ Less than once a year
- ◯ Less than once every 5 years
- ◯ Never
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

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28. Would your lab be interested in having your validations externally peer reviewed but independent of an external QAS audit?

- [ ] Yes, I think a more timely review would be beneficial
- [ ] Yes, I think a review separate from an audit would be more thorough
- [ ] No, I think the current system is sufficient
- [ ] Other (please explain)
- [ ] N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

29. Would your lab be willing to perform an external peer review of another lab’s validation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Other (please explain)
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

30. Are you using any methods that exactly follow the manufacturer's recommended/published protocol? (i.e., no variations were implemented after internal validation)

- [ ] Yes, Extraction method(s)
- [ ] Yes, Quant method(s)
- [ ] Yes, Amp method(s)
- [ ] Yes, CE method(s)
- [ ] Yes, Sequencing method(s)
- [ ] No
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

31. If yes to any of the above, which specific method(s) were not altered from the manufacturer's recommended/published protocol? (e.g., Extraction on the Dharma robot using the 100uL forensic protocol)

32. Does your lab do (or plan to do) verification testing following validation (per ANSI/ASB Standard 020) or as performance monitoring of personnel?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

If yes, please explain.

33. Have the QAS prevented you from implementing a new technology, methodology, platform, typing test kit, or software?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

If yes, please explain.

34. Have the QAS helped your lab receive funding for/from your agency? (e.g., for equipment, continuing education, personnel)

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

If yes, please explain.

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35. Is the DNA Technical Leader in your laboratory a stand-alone position?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

36. Beyond the duties of the TL, what other titles/responsibilities does the DNA TL have in your laboratory (e.g., casework, supervisory tasks, CODIS administrator tasks)?

37. Does your laboratory use multiple TL(s) or assistant/deputy TL(s) to distribute the DNA TL tasks/responsibilities?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

If yes, please explain how tasks/responsibilities are divided.

38. Rate the following responsibilities of the DNA TL:

	Must be performed by the DNA TL	Should be performed by the DNA TL	Could be delegated to someone else in the lab	Should be delegated to someone else in the lab	N/A - No Opinion
Oversee the technical operations of the laboratory.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Authority to initiate, suspend, and resume technical operations for the laboratory or an individual, and, when applicable, a Rapid DNA partner agency.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Evaluate and approve all validations and new or modified methods used by the laboratory.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Review the training records for newly qualified analysts, technicians and technical reviewers and approve their qualifications prior to independent casework analysis.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Review, verify, and approve the education and experience for newly qualified analysts	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

and technical reviewers.					
Approve the technical specifications for outsourcing agreements.	○	○	○	○	○
Review internal and external DNA Audit Documents and, if applicable, approve corrective action(s).	○	○	○	○	○
Review, on an annual basis, the procedures of the laboratory.	○	○	○	○	○
Review and approve the training, quality assurance, and proficiency testing programs in the laboratory.	○	○	○	○	○
Review potential conflicts of interest when contract employees are employed by multiple NDIS participating and/or vendor laboratories.	○	○	○	○	○

39. Please add any additional feedback to supplement your response(s) above.

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40. How would you rate the educational requirements for:

	Too Much	Just Right	Insufficient	N/A - No Opinion
Technical Leader	○	○	○	○
CODIS Administrator	○	○	○	○
Analyst	○	○	○	○
Technician	○	○	○	○
Laboratory Support Personnel	○	○	○	○

41. Explain any “Too Much” or “Insufficient” educational ratings above.

42. How would you rate the experience requirements for:

	Too Much	Just Right	Insufficient	N/A - No Opinion
Technical Leader	◯	◯	◯	◯
CODIS Administrator	◯	◯	◯	◯
Analyst	◯	◯	◯	◯
Technician	◯	◯	◯	◯
Laboratory Support Personnel	◯	◯	◯	◯

43. Explain any “Too Much” or “Insufficient” experience ratings above.

44. Do the educational or experience requirements in the QAS make it difficult for you to fill open positions in your laboratory or to promote otherwise qualified candidates to open positions from within?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

If yes, please provide an example.

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Please use this page to address any concerns that have not been covered by the prior questions.

45. Please provide examples of any additional topics that are not adequately addressed by the QAS.

46. If there any QAS topics/standards that should be more stringent, please provide a suggestion for improvement.

47. Is there anything else you would you like to see in the next revision of the QAS?

48. What would you NOT want to see in the next revision of the QAS?

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49. How many Analysts are in your DNA section/group?

- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3-9
- ◯ 10-15
- ◯ 16-25
- ◯ 26-50
- ◯ 51+
- ◯ Other (please specify)
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

50. Do you have Technicians? If yes, how many?

- ◯ We don't have Technicians
- ◯ 1-5
- ◯ 6-10
- ◯ 11+
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

51. Do you have Laboratory Support Personnel? If yes, how many?

- ◯ We don't have Laboratory Support Personnel
- ◯ 1-5
- ◯ 6-10
- ◯ 11+
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

52. Are you an NDIS participating laboratory?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

53. Are you a vendor laboratory?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

54. Who is your accrediting body?

- ◯ A2LA
- ◯ ANAB
- ◯ Other (please specify)

  [ ]
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

55. What is the jurisdiction of your primary customers?

- ◯ Local
- ◯ State
- ◯ Federal
- ◯ Other (please specify)

  [ ]
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

56. Approximately how many personnel are in your organization’s laboratory (DNA + other disciplines)?

- ◯ 1-10
- ◯ 11-25
- ◯ 26-50
- ◯ 51-100
- ◯ 101-500
- ◯ 501+
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

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57. What technology(ies) do you test?

- ☐ STR
- ☐ YSTR
- ☐ Mito
- ☐ SNPs
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ☐ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

58. What platform(s) do you use?

- ☐ CE
- ☐ NGS/MPS
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ☐ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

59. Do you report likelihood ratios (LR) for direct comparisons?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Databasing laboratory or Non-laboratory respondent

60. Do you use a probabilistic genotyping software (PGS)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ N/A - Databasing laboratory or Non-laboratory respondent

61. Do you outsource?

- ☐ Yes, for forensic/crime scene samples
- ☐ Yes, for casework reference samples
- ☐ Yes, for unidentified human remains (UHR) or missing person samples
- ☐ Yes, for database samples
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  [ ]

- ☐ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

62. Do you use Rapid DNA?

- ☐ In lab for reference samples
- ☐ In lab for forensic samples
- ☐ In lab for Unidentified Human Remains (UHR)
- ☐ Temporary/Mobile for reference samples
- ☐ Temporary/Mobile for forensic samples
- ☐ Temporary/Mobile for UHRs
- ☐ Partner laboratory for reference samples
- ☐ Partner laboratory for forensic samples
- ☐ Partner laboratory for UHRs
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  [ ]

- ☐ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

63. Do you do Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) testing?

- ◯ Yes, we do all aspects of FIGG testing in our lab (sequencing and genealogy)
- ◯ Yes, we do sequencing in our lab but outsource the genealogy
- ◯ Yes, we outsource sequencing but do the genealogy in our lab
- ◯ No, although we have worked with customers to prepare samples to be sent out
- ◯ No, we have not been involved in any FIGG testing
- ◯ Other (please specify)

- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

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64. Have you completed the QAS auditor training (current or previous versions)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, what year/version have you most recently taken?

65. Approximately what percentage of your DNA staff have completed the QAS auditor training (current or previous versions)?

- ◯ All
- ◯ Most (~75%)
- ◯ Some (~50%)
- ◯ A few (~25%)
- ◯ None
- ◯ I don't know
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

66. Have you participated in an external audit/assessment?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

67. Approximately what percentage of your DNA staff have participated in an external audit/assessment?

- ◯ All
- ◯ Most (~75%)
- ◯ Some (~50%)
- ◯ A few (~25%)
- ◯ None
- ◯ I don't know
- ◯ N/A - Non-laboratory respondent

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68. Would you be willing to discuss your responses with members of SWGDAM and/or in a group of other respondents?

- ☐ Yes, please reach out with any questions
- ☐ Yes, I've got plenty more opinions that I didn't have time to put in writing
- ☐ Yes, I'd be willing to participate in a QAS "focus group"
- ☐ No

69. If you answered any yes above, please provide your name ...

First name

Last name

70. ... and email address

Email address