Meeting the clients with the producers on Proficiency Testing of rare analytes

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT)

Alexander Haliassos (Chair).

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT) Introduction

- The role of Proficiency Testing schemes (or External Quality Control programs) is of primordial importance:
    - to the analytical quality,
    - to the standardization of the methods and
    - to the harmonization of the results,

    but there is a lack of interest from the commercial providers of such schemes
    - for the more **new** and **complex** tests and
    - for the **very old and simple** measurands that involve a **new calibration curve**, because of the very subtle problems induced at the interpretation of the statistical results of their, already well-established and running, schemes.

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT) Introduction - Aims

- **The TF-PT is a multidisciplinary effort in the analysis and the exploration of the Proficiency Testing issues. Our aims are:**

  - To facilitate the introduction of international proficiency testing schemes for uncommon but clinically important measurands (analytes).

  - To use the information to select measurands (analytes) that may be suitable for method harmonization as a means to improving patient outcomes.

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT) Introduction – Principal Objectives (I)

- To establish a **small group of clinical and scientific experts** who represent both suppliers and users of 'uncommon but clinically important' laboratory medicine assays.

- To agree a **definition** of an ***'uncommon but clinically important' measurand*** (analyte) and the body of evidence that is required to meet that definition.

- To write a specification for operating an international proficiency testing scheme.

- To survey IFCC Members and IFCC functional units to receive suggestions for 'uncommon but clinically important' measurands (analytes).

- To prioritize the suggestions received and to assess the potential for international proficiency testing and the likely support of manufacturers of available methods.

- To establish the availability of proficiency testing schemes for the identified measurands (analytes). Where proficiency testing schemes exist to assess their potential for expansion at an international level.

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT) Introduction – Principal Objectives (II)

- In the absence of suitable proficiency testing schemes to invite bids to provide measurand (analyte) specific proficiency testing in accordance with the agreed specification.

- To recommend to the Executive Board proficiency testing schemes that may be set up under the auspices of IFCC.

- To monitor performance in IFCC supported proficiency testing schemes and to support the preparation of scientific publications at appropriate points in time.

- To use performance data from IFCC supported proficiency testing schemes to propose measurands for harmonization in line with www.harmonization.net.

Main project of the TF-PT

- Is the **creation of an online database - web application** accessible via web browsers and via specific applications for the major mobile platforms.

- The roots of this database will be the analytes (tests, measurands) that will be filed with all possible synonyms ("official" from the C-NPU) as also as the methods (assays, instruments, reagents etc.) also with all possible synonyms.

- Another part of the DB, maintained with the cooperation of the C-AQ, will be the PT providers section containing all their contact information, their programs with the analytes, frequencies, type of statistics, commutability of control materials, their accreditation or certification status etc.

- All register users can **add any term in the database**, although the application will propose similar ones if there are already filed, searching all synonyms.

- Finally, they can "***vote***" expressing their desire for the introduction of a PT for this analyte.

Online Database or Web Application?

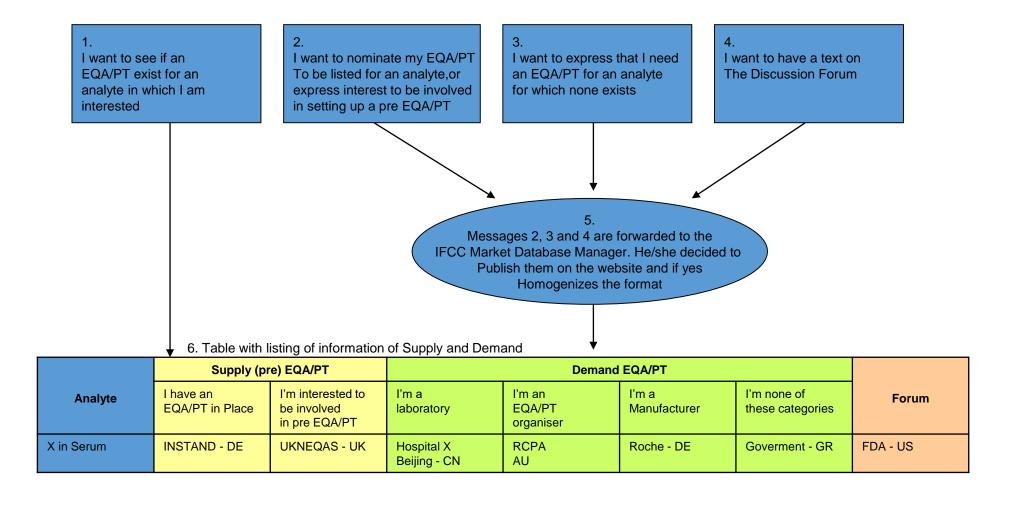Developed as web application, as opposed to classic website provides:

- Capabilities:
  - Optimized for smartphones, tablets and desktop
  - Responsive
  - Adapts to the screen size
  - Modern and fast
  - Mobile app ready

- Features:
  - Left pane navigation
  - Public area
  - Admin area (login required)
  - Switch languages
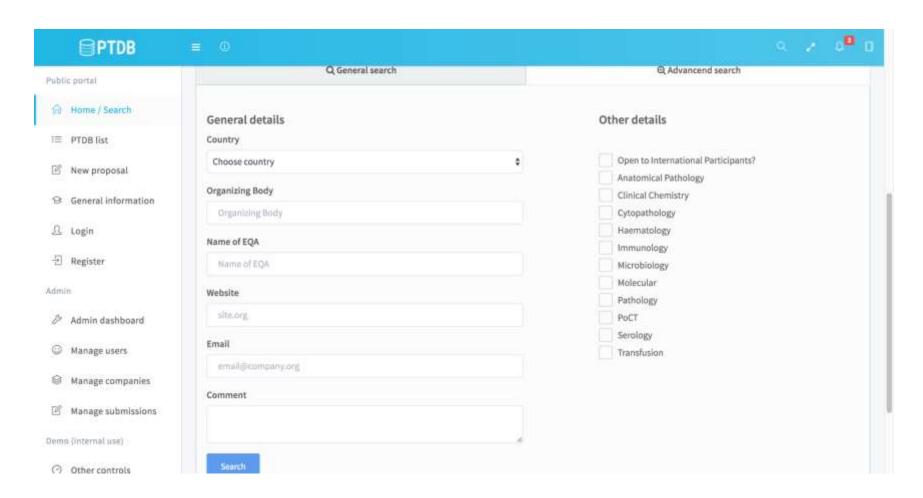
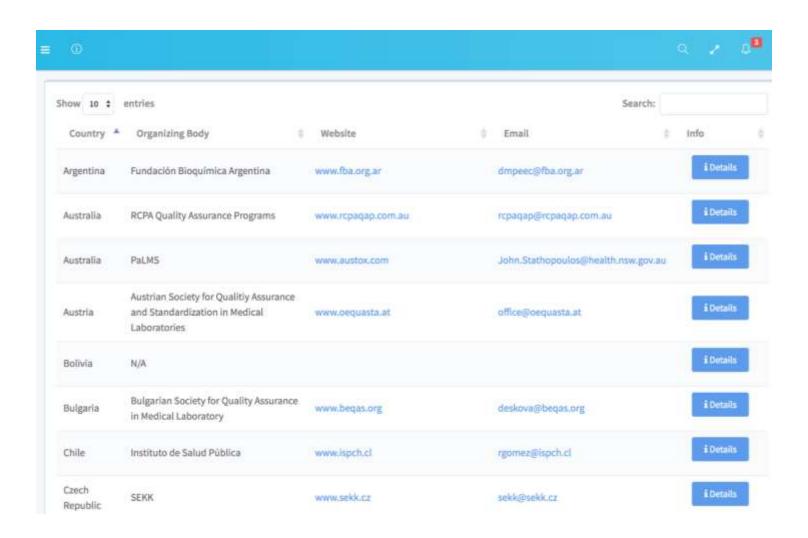# Flowchart of the Online Database - Web Application

1.
I want to see if an EQA/PT exist for an analyte in which I am interested

2.
I want to nominate my EQA/PT To be listed for an analyte,or express interest to be involved in setting up a pre EQA/PT

3.
I want to express that I need an EQA/PT for an analyte for which none exists

4.
I want to have a text on The Discussion Forum

5.
Messages 2, 3 and 4 are forwarded to the IFCC Market Database Manager. He/she decided to Publish them on the website and if yes Homogenizes the format

6. Table with listing of information of Supply and Demand

Analyte	Supply (pre) EQA/PT		Demand EQA/PT				Forum
	I have an EQA/PT in Place	I'm interested to be involved in pre EQA/PT	I'm a laboratory	I'm an EQA/PT organiser	I'm a Manufacturer	I'm none of these categories	
X in Serum	INSTAND - DE	UKNEQAS - UK	Hospital X Beijing - CN	RCPA AU	Roche - DE	Goverment - GR	FDA - US

Search for an analyte (test)

General information

Login

Register

Admin

Admin dashboard

Manage users

Manage companies

Manage submissions

Demo (internal use)

Other controls

Introduction & welcome text to the new app

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vestibulum tincidunt est vitae ultrices a ornare lacus adipiscing, posuere lectus et, fringilla augue. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consecte Vestibulum tincidunt est vitae ultrices accumsan. Aliquam ornare lacus adipiscing.

Q General search

Q Advancend search

Search for a PT provider (EQA organizer)

Search Results

Details of Search Results

Login Page

Submit and Register a new PT provider (EQA organizer)

Profile registration

Main Page for Database Administrator

Administration of PT providers (EQA organizers)

Details of PT providers (EQA organizers)
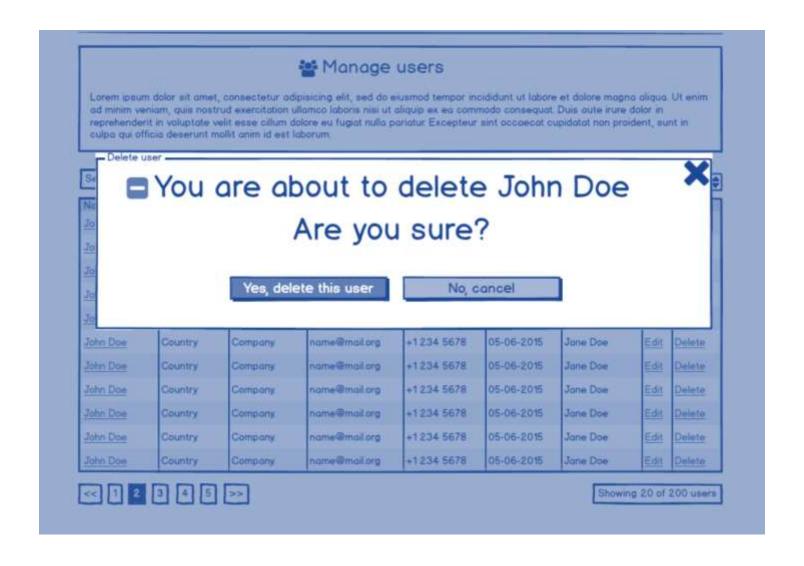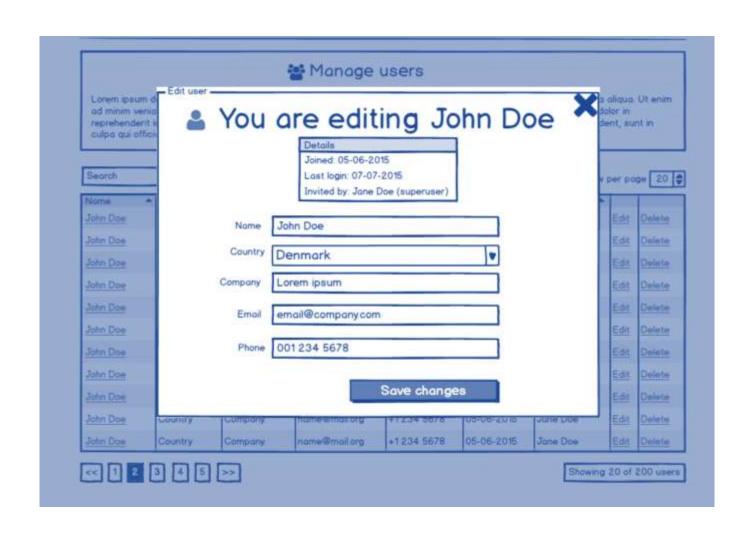
Administration of Database Users (I)

Administration of Database Users (II)

Administration of Database Users (III)

Conclusions

- The ***database in development from the TF-PT*** will interactively link our colleagues - final users of the tests, with:
    - PT providers,
    - IVD manufacturers,
    - Accreditation bodies etc and
    - will facilitate the search for a PT scheme for "rare" esoteric or new analytes, or the introduction of a new one if needed.
- Automated algorithms will send request to appropriate PT providers, if an analyte has exceeded the limit of the required votes.
- IVD manufacturers want also to establish such PT schemes prior to the introduction of new assays.
- Moreover, the database can be used for the tasks of harmonization project of the AACC.

Thank You

for your attention!!!

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