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Berlin, 23rd September 2011

2nd External Quality Assurance (EQA) for the serology diagnostic of West Nile (WN)

Dear colleagues,

Since our last EQA for the serology for West Nile is dated back in 2005 the emergence of WN in Italy and the Balkan area in the recent years creates a significant public health concern. Therefore we have the pleasure to organise the 2nd EQA for the serology of WN by the European Network for Diagnostics of "Imported" Viral Diseases (ENIVD).

In order to plan for the number of participants we kindly ask you to forward to us the information on your participation in this WN Sero EQA. According to our plan we want distribute the samples mid of November 2011 to all interested diagnostic laboratories.

The test panel will be consisting of approximately 12 samples which should be analysed for antibodies (IgM, IgG) directed against WN virus. All the results will be evaluated according to specificity and sensitivity aspects.

If you are interested to participate please make provisions for test kits, etc. related to the number of expected samples you plan to process.

Each laboratory will receive the complete summary of the results in an anonymous way only with the own laboratory recognisable. This also means that we will deliver the results after we received nearly all results from all participants.

Please tell us as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in the serology diagnostic for WN either by email or fax. And if you know of other laboratories that might be interested please forward this message. Please provide me also with your detailed mail address (partner of contact, address, name of institution, street, zip code, city, phone, fax, email).

We will inform all participating laboratories before distribution of the material by email. If you still have questions regarding the EQA please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards, yours

Matthias & Oliver & Regina

Enclosure: Questionnaire for participation in the WN diagnostic serology EQA

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Please return by fax or email:

by

email: enivd@rki.de

by fax: ++49 30 18754-2625 / -2390

Senders address:

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(name, institute, street, zip code, city, phone, fax, **email**)

Please PRINT

I want to participate in the 2nd external quality assurance (EQA) for serology diagnostic for West Nile Virus infection (ca. 12 samples).

YES

NO

(please tick)

Please respond even if you do not want to participate so we know the mail was not lost in your spam-filter.