

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Forum on Laboratory Accreditation, Columbus, Ohio  
January 24, 2024 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms welcomed everyone to the session. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

This session was not recorded and it was difficult to hear much of the conversation. The presentation used is being distributed with this summary of the meeting.

2. Review of Conference Sessions for Potential Advocacy Involvement

PTPEC – the effort to define “technology” seems to have changed course, as there is now a Technology Workgroup under CSDEC trying to address technologies for internal audits and technical specialists, which is different than the PTPEC effort underway to define technologies as used in Fields of Accreditation and PTs. Perhaps CSDP can come up with a new term such as Scientific Discipline or Analytical Discipline workgroup?

Assessment Forum – this session focused on findings that were often found in early days, then diminished, but are back with increased frequency. A better description of “critical findings” might be helpful.

Credentials – this session focused on the launch of the Credentials Initiative later in 2024.

Small Lab Forum – this group discussed possibly facilitating internships, but struggled to understand what the incentive would be for labs and students to have such a program. Retention of new employees after the training period is a huge problem for labs. They also considered holding conferences in college towns to attract science students and the possibility of creating some version of a “young professionals” group.

NELAP Accreditation Council – the group held an extended discussion of modifications to accreditation certificates so that the certificate itself identifies the AB issuing the accreditation. EPA OGWDW are concerned that if there is “a problem” with a lab, it cannot be determined from the certificate which (if any) NELAP AB is responsible for the accreditation. Part of this issue stems from a misperception that non-NELAP states are issuing questionable certifications based on NELAP certificates because the lab’s certificate from any given NELAP state does not distinguish between primary and secondary accreditations. Because of mutual recognition, within NELAP, that is unnecessary, but EPA still has concerns that certifications issued by non-NELAP states could be based on secondary accreditations and the Agency would not know which AB to hold responsible if there were a problem. The AB representatives want new requirements to address this in the revised V2M1 Standard, even though the information in question resides in LAMS. We could seek to educate those non-NELAP parties about the availability of information in LAMS, instead.

3. Spring Newsletter Articles and Authors

Steve volunteered to be the editor for the spring issue. Articles will be due in mid-to-late May for publication in June. Articles discussed are shown below.

<b>Article Topic</b>	<b>Proposed Author</b>	<b>Author Contact Info</b>
Revamping the training webpage and course descriptors	Elizabeth Turner	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsUS.com

Call for Abstracts, NEFAP Sampling Conclave	Ilona Taunton	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Credentialing update	Jerry/Ken/Lynn	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:Kbrown@escondido.org">Kbrown@escondido.org</a> <a href="mailto:Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>
Summary of winter Forum	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Summer conference	Jerry Parr (ghosting for Lara)	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Article recruiting Ambassadors	Sharon Mertens	smertens@mmsd.com
Member spotlight – September Scheldrup	Stephanie Drier	Stephanie.Drier@state.mn.us
Alfredo's article	Alfredo Sotomayor	Asotomayor@mmsd.com
What to do in Garden Grove	Ryan McMullin	<a href="mailto:rmcmullin@ocsan.gov">rmcmullin@ocsan.gov</a>
Committee openings/vacancies	Paul Junio	Paul.junio@pacelabs.com
Article on EPA regulations and PFAS	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Robert's Rules of Order for TNI	Patsy Root	Patsy-Root@idexx.com
New FSMO standard	Katie Strothman	katie@sanderslabs.net
New lab standards	Paul Junio	Paul.junio@pacelabs.com

#### 4. Ambassadors

This is an important component of TNI's outreach to non-NELAP states. We need individuals who are active in TNI and also (preferably) active in state laboratory or advisory groups as well. The individuals appointed will need to stay in occasional contact with the state certification program, advising them of the resources TNI has available to both their program and laboratories, and to clarify NELAP's role and activities, as appropriate. The designated Ambassador will also be responsible for maintaining and updating the state's certification profile in the database

Several individuals offered to be Ambassadors for Ohio, and at least one for Kansas (to replace Aurora Shields, who is retiring later this year).

#### 5. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee teleconference is scheduled for **Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 1 pm Eastern**. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

**Attachment 1**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
3.	Mike Delaney	Other	Absent
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Absent
9.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ian McBride	Lab	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Absent