

## **Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary**

**October 21, 2024**

### **I Welcome and Roll Call:**

Cody the meeting to order at 13:33 Eastern on October 21, 2024, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associates present were Nigel Allison, Debbie Bond, Antoine Chamsi, Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, Anagha Chitre, Bryan Disch, Sviatlana Haubner, Carl Kircher, Deanna Kiska, David Lo, and Christabel Monteiro. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

### **II Approval of Agenda**

Cody asked for approval of the Agenda. Hearing no objections, she declared the agenda approved.

### **III Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Cody has presented the meeting minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting in conjunction with the announcement of this meeting. Hearing no comments on the minutes. Cody asked for a motion to approve them. Following a motion by Maria Fayard and a second by Tina Shidel, the following voted to approve the minutes: Hunter Adams, Cody Danielson, Maria Fayard, Matt Graves, Jessica Hoch, Ashley Larssen, Liz Lesold, Patsy Root, Bob Royce, Tina Shidel, and Elisa Snyder. There were no votes against nor any abstentions.

### **IV SIR 425 Review and Response**

SIR 425 has gone back and forth between the Microbiology Expert Committee and the Accreditation Council. The AC has reached a point where they don't feel that the Standard addresses the question asked in this SIR. Paul, Maria Fayard and Liz don't agree, but recognize that there's no way forward. The response that will be put forward by the Microbiology Committee is as follows: The question asked cannot be answered with the language in the Standard, as the Standard does not clearly state that the lab itself must perform the testing.

Following a motion by Tina and a second by Bob, a vote on the SIR was not held due to the absence of a Super Majority. However, knowing that the following voted to approve the SIR response: Hunter Adams, Cody Danielson, Maria Fayard, Matt Graves, Jessica Hoch, Ashley Larssen, Liz Lesold, Patsy Root, Bob Royce, Tina Shidel, and Elisa Snyder. There were no votes against nor any abstentions.

### **V Update on Analytical Disciplines Task Force Progress**

Carl asked where the division would be between 'simple' and 'complex'? Tina asked if it would be Enzyme Substrate as opposed to everything else? Maria Fayard commented that many laboratories ONLY perform Presence/Absence, while many do much more than that. It would be nice if they could be separated. Liz asked what 'experience' means in Module 2. Doesn't that

need to be defined before we can continue? Cody replied that the Analytical Discipline plan is vague at this point, and that is among the things that the Task Force is working on. Maria asked if Microbiology could be just Qualitative and Quantitative? Hunter pointed out that Qualitray analyses are quantitative, but not significantly different than the Presence/Absence analysis. Tina added that there's no real setup involved there. Liz asked if you only did Membrane Filtration, would you be required to know the Presence/Absence portion of the TS requirements as well? Paul thought so, as those are two different disciplines (seemingly). Hunter asked if we have to do this? Paul said that this is a moving target that is ongoing, and that it is not easy to describe. Patsy and Hunter asked 'why is it needed'? Hunter thought that Microbiology should be excluded as it isn't needed. Patsy added that this seems like management. Jessica said that it isn't always. Elisa asked if the Technical Specialist is the new term for Technical Manager? Liz thought this sounded like a Quality Manager. Tina said they are often the same, but less so in larger laboratories. Patsy and Hunter thought that DOCs might be important or a key. Elisa asked if this changes what we're currently doing. Cody said that the current exceptions will likely remain, and no current TM would be disqualified. Hunter didn't like that it could be less restrictive, as someone will push it farther than it ought to go. Liz agreed. Debbie said that it seems like we're describing managers here, but we've gone away from describing it as management to open up that possibility. Tina said that from a large laboratory standpoint, the organization chart isn't as simple as it is for a small laboratory. Operations leaders can be business people who don't have the science background. The TS may not be a person with direct reports, but has technical knowledge. Patsy agreed, and added that if they troubleshoot, there is a lot of responsibility. Tina said it isn't always a department lead who has that role. Liz and Tina agreed that the person has control of the processes, but isn't necessarily a supervisor. Paul asked if the language in 5.6.3b helped, but Liz pointed out that it only applied to nonconforming work. Cody pointed out that 7.10.1.b is the procedures for any aspect of nonconforming work and includes Stop Data Authority. Tina doesn't think that there is an answer. Other organizations such as ISO, AIHA and NVLAP have dropped the requirement for a Technical Specialist. It's difficult to dictate and enforce laboratory structure. Patsy asked 'who signs off on the data'? Tina said that it depends on the laboratory system. Secondary review of data in the laboratory could be handled by a large number of different people for different analyses. Patsy said that everyone has that go-to person in the laboratory for fixing things. It's usually a senior-level recognized for the ability. However, being responsible for the data is overstepping what her understanding of the TS is. Tina agreed. Management authority overly complicates things. Paul asked if this should be a Board decision/discussion. Patsy thought it ought to go to CSDP EC first. Bob said that the TS needs to have real world experience. He has encountered laboratories who have lost that person and can't replace them. It's crazy to just leave it up to the laboratory. Tina added that meeting the requirements won't necessarily mean that the data is good. Patsy said she understood that. The need to know something to check against doesn't mean that the person in that position will make the right determination on the utility of the data. What are the minimum requirements?

As the time for the meeting was drawing to a close, Cody thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 3:01PM Eastern. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at 1:30PM Eastern. Cody will reach out to the Committee about scheduling an additional meeting in November to try to get through the discussion on Module 5.

*[EDIT – that meeting was subsequently scheduled for Tuesday, November 19 at 1:30PM Eastern.]*

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B.

## Attachment A - Participants

### Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Hunter Adams 2026 <b>Present</b>	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) 2024* <b>Absent</b>	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Cody Danielson (Chair) 2025 <b>Present</b>		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com
Maria Fayard 2026* <b>Present</b>	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov
Maria Friedman 2025* <b>Absent</b>	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Matt Graves 2025* <b>Present</b>	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com
Jessica Hoch 2025 <b>Present until 13:55ET</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	Other	jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Silky Labie 2026* <b>Absent</b>	ELCAT, LLC	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net
Ashley Larssen 2024* <b>Present</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	ashley.larssen@pacelabs.com
Elizabeth Lesold 2027* <b>Present</b>	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov
Brian Mercer 2027* <b>Absent</b>	City of Plantation	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org
Patsy Root 2027* <b>Present until 13:55ET</b>	IDEXX	Other	Patsy-Root@IDEXX.com
Bob Royce 2025* <b>Present</b>	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov
Tina Shidel 2027* <b>Present</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com
Elisa Snyder 2026 <b>Present</b>	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Ilona Taunton Program Administrator <b>Absent</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Paul Junio TNI Scribe <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org

\* - eligible to serve another term

**Attachment B**  
**Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
104	Implementation Guidance for Temperature Distribution and Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	See note in 5/11/21 minutes. 4/11/23: Working on Temperature Distribution. 7/11/23: Working on Equilibrium; Anticipated January 2024
114	Work on Questions for the Credentialing Exam	Cody		Get to Jerry as soon as possible.
115	Committee motions, minutes, and votes as needed	Cody	Ongoing	Captured in meeting minutes whether in meeting or via email
116	Verify changes made in Module 2 and how they affect Module 5	Cody/Paul	Ongoing	

## Attachment C

### Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter (if needed) every 5 years.	n/a	Ongoing
2	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Paul Junio.		Moved to back-burner on 6/9/20.
3	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.		This was moved from the Action Items table. Notes: 6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up.