

ISBER PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM FOR BIOREPOSITORIES

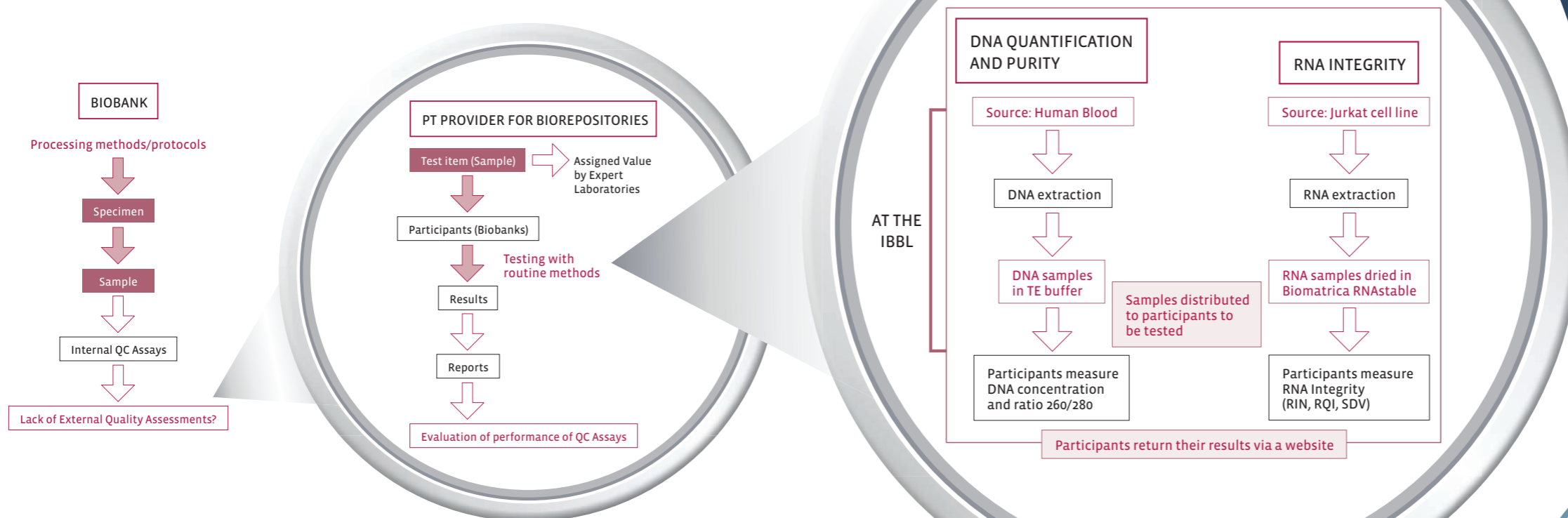


ISBER has developed a Proficiency Testing (PT) Program for biorepositories in partnership with IBBL. The PT Program allows biorepositories performing quality control assays / characterization of the biospecimens to assess the accuracy of their testing and to compare their results with those obtained in other laboratories around the world.

For biorepositories that want to pursue accreditation, the ISBER PT Program will provide a necessary External Quality Assessment tool.

All the Standard Operating Procedures have been written according to the requirements of the ISO17043:2010 norm, reviewed by the ISBER PT Advisory Group and approved by the ISBER PT Coordinating Body. Specific software was configured for the needs of the biorepository PT schemes. The first two schemes that were launched are "DNA Quantification and Purity" and "RNA Integrity".

A dedicated PT Program to allow Biobanks to assess their sample testing performance internationally.



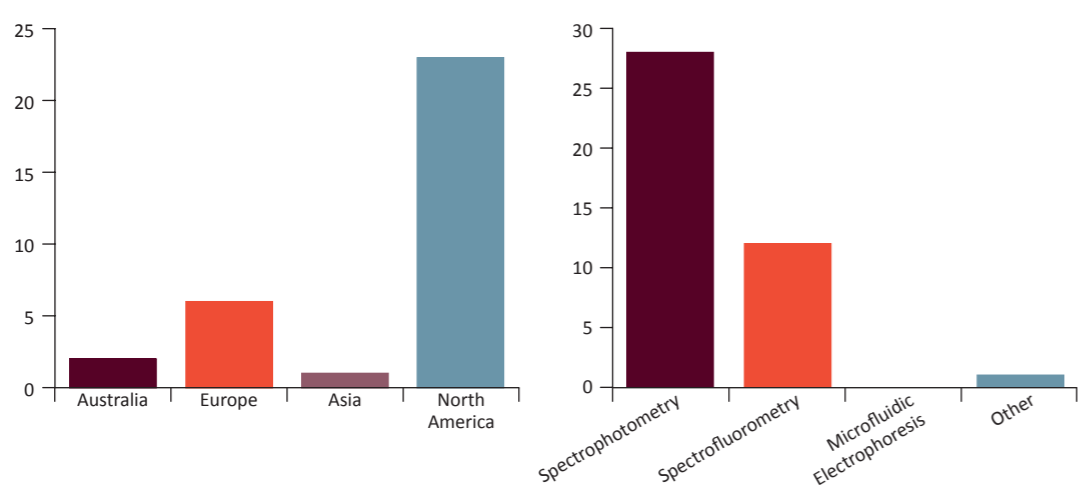
AUTHORS

- Francesca Poloni (IBBL, Luxembourg) francesca.poloni@ibbl.lu
- Garry Ashton (Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, UK)
- Anne Mieke De Wilde (Antwerp Hospital, Belgium)
- James Eliason (Great Lakes Stem Cell Innovation Center, US)
- Gunnel Tybring (Karolinska Institute, Sweden)
- Domenico Coppola (Moffitt Cancer Center, US)
- Elaine Gunter (Specimen Solutions LLC, US)
- Fiorella Guadagni (San Raffaele, Italy)
- Sabine Lehmann (IBBL, Luxembourg)
- Conny Mathay (IBBL, Luxembourg)
- Olga Kofanova (IBBL, Luxembourg)
- Yvonne De Souza (UCSF, US)
- Kathi Shea (Seracare, US)
- James Douglas (ASIP, US)
- Michele Zink (ASIP, US)
- Mark Sobel (ASIP, US)
- and Fay Betsou (IBBL, Luxembourg)

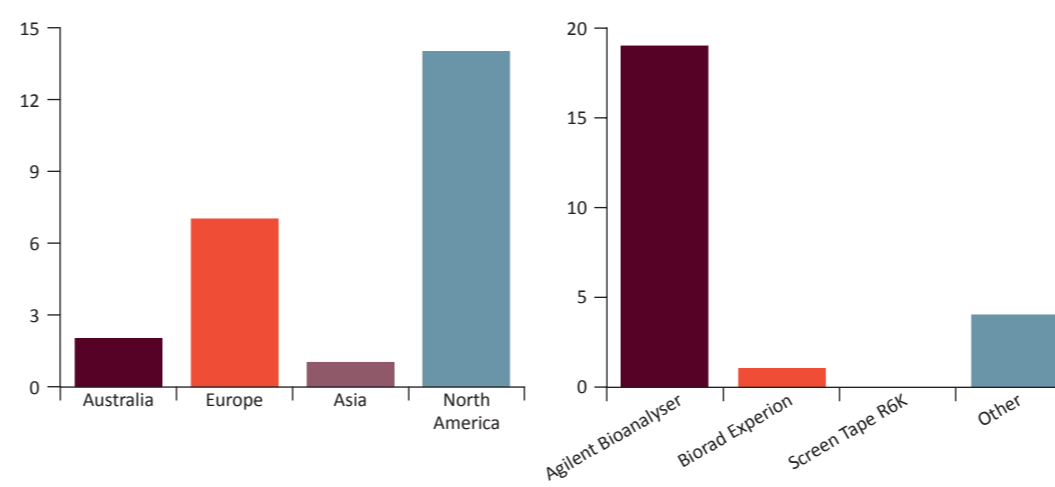
The PT Program was launched in September 2011 and was open to any type of Laboratory or Biorepository in the world.

- Three specialised Laboratories in Europe and the US, participated in the Value assignment for DNA and for RNA.
- 32 Participants registered in the DNA scheme and 24 in the RNA scheme.
- Results on testing using different methods were submitted online by Participants. Each Participant had the possibility to submit results obtained with more than one method of testing.

Geographic distribution of Participants for the DNA Scheme and statistics on methods used:



Geographic distribution of Participants for the RNA Scheme and statistics on methods used:

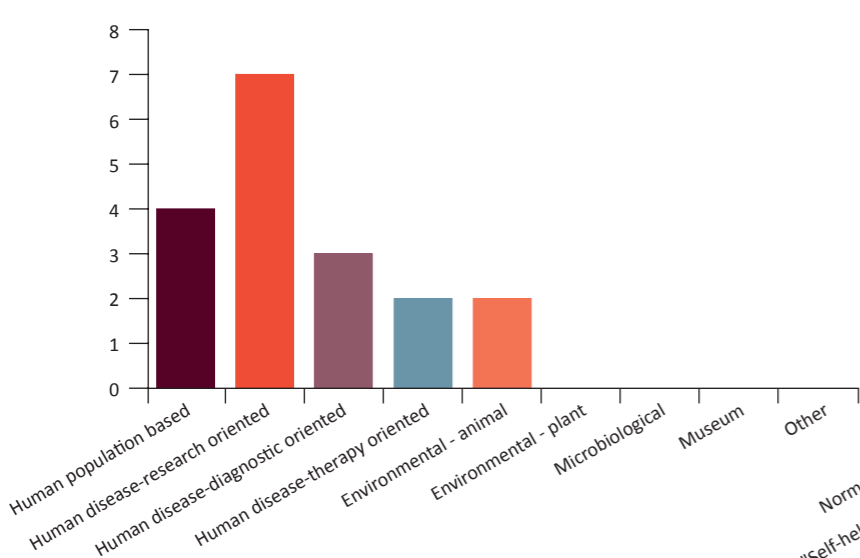


Participant's performance, based on the **scoring system** which was established by the PT software, was reviewed by the PT Advisory Group before the individual reports were approved by the Coordinator.

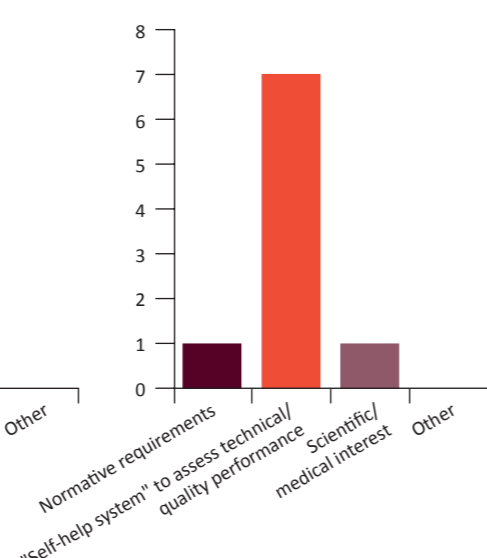
The results showed 90% of very satisfactory or satisfactory scores for the DNA Concentration and 92% of very satisfactory or satisfactory scores for the DNA Ratio Scheme, and 70% of very satisfactory or satisfactory scores for the RNA Scheme.

The type of repository, reason for participating into a PT scheme and overall satisfaction were assessed through a survey that Participants returned to ISBER after they received their report.

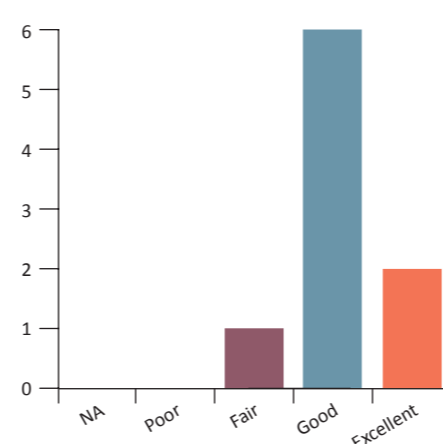
Type of repository



Reason for participating



Overall satisfaction



CONCLUSION

The program for 2012 will open in 3rd quarter of the year and will include, in addition to the "DNA Quantification and Purity" and "RNA Integrity" schemes, the following schemes: "Cell Viability" and "Tissue Histology".

For more information, visit: http://www.isber.org/proficiency_testing/