

2011-2012 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Environmental Health Committee

1. Develop strategies to increase visibility of state and local environmental laboratory programs and services.
2. Develop partnerships to maintain and enhance laboratory preparedness and environmental testing programs (Joint priority with the EPR Committee)
3. Draft and implement a plan to address recognized national gaps in radiological preparedness.
4. Develop consensus environmental and clinical data elements for electronic data transferability (Joint priority with the Informatics Committee)
5. Address emerging issues such as climate change, TSCA reform and other issues as they arise.
6. Develop plan to maintain drinking water program certification and address lack of accreditation for other state relevant environmental programs and CLIA.

Food Safety Committee

1. Champion and advance PulseNet and associated foodborne disease surveillance programs, including MLVA implementation
2. Support CIFOR activities to improve foodborne disease outbreak detection and investigation.
3. Improve coordination and collaboration with FDA, USDA, and FERN.
4. Provide a home for governmental laboratories that perform food and environmental testing in support of food safety.
5. Contribute identification and isolation guidelines as needed
6. External advocacy
7. Accreditation

Global Health Committee

1. Develop and Monitor the Global Health Strategic Plan to ensure alignment with the objectives of the association's strategic plan.

2. Monitor and report to the board on APHL Global Health Program activities based on input from program staff and member country liaison group.
3. Review and provide recommendations on international activities in all APHL Cooperative Agreements (All Programs doing international work).
4. Assist with Marketing APHL International Activities.
5. Educate Members and Partners about the relevance of APHL International Programs to the strategic goals of the organization.
6. Diversify funding opportunities at APHL for international activities.

Infectious Disease Committee

1. Address issues surrounding the maintenance of laboratory capability and capacity for infectious diseases of public health importance, including the exploration of shared service models for diseases of low or declining incidence.
2. Explore the use, performance and utility of new and emerging diagnostic technologies in public health laboratories and consider the impact of adopting new technologies on public health practice.
3. Ensure that public health laboratories have the guidance and resources they need to monitor and respond appropriately to infectious disease threats, outbreaks and/or emergencies.
4. Monitor and respond to new Federal regulations, including oversight of LDTs, biosafety regulations, and CLIA that may impact infectious disease testing in public health laboratories.
5. Assess the broad role of PHLs in ID testing in an era of decreasing funds and increasing privatization and (identify/consider/assess) core ID testing services.
6. Support APHL initiatives to develop and maintain relationships with commercial, private sector, academic and hospital laboratories that perform infectious disease testing.

Informatics Committee

1. Represent PHLs in the domain of standardized electronic laboratory data exchange across domestic and international informatics initiatives.

2. Support and expand participation in Information System User groups; including but not limited to LIMS, data integration engines and system standards user groups.
3. Gather, assess, and disseminate data and information on technical capacity and technology adoption across PHLs.
4. Continue to provide technical assistance in the area of information technology, training and education to both domestic and international PHLs.
5. Education and Outreach: Promote and Advocate the cause of public health laboratories to federal agencies and the greater public health community.

Knowledge Management

1. Provide subject matter expertise to promote effective management of (tacit and explicit) knowledge within APHL.
2. Develop and introduce KM practices and tools to member laboratories to enhance their strategic and operational capabilities.
3. Identify processes and ways to improve novel interpretations of APHL data.

Laboratory Systems & Standards

1. Maintain, promote, and advance the Laboratory System Improvement Program.
2. Develop a plan for measuring the new Health People 2020 objective, "Increase the proportion of public health laboratory systems (including State, Tribal, and local) which perform at a high level of quality in support of the 10 Essential Public Health Services."
3. Promote continuous quality improvement by supporting laboratories with regulatory certification and working toward public health laboratory accreditation.
4. Collaborate with other APHL committees on cross-cutting issues.
5. Support both the state and national Public Health Laboratory System models.

Membership & Recognition Committee

1. Promote recruitment of new members with a special emphasis on recruiting local, agricultural and environmental labs.
2. Promote retention of existing members by communicating the value of member benefits and services and by increasing member satisfaction of the benefits and services.
3. Explore avenues for engaging and recruiting young professionals into labs doing testing of public health significance, and facilitate the implementation of new APHL initiatives in this area.
4. Administer the APHL Recognition program. Continue to refine as necessary and promote the program more fully to the membership.
5. Ensure the association's governance structure is optimal for meeting the needs of its members and the association's mission.

Newborn Screening and Genetics in Public Health Committee

1. Continue to promote the role of genetics in public health and newborn screening.
2. Continue to participate in the National Coordinating Center for Genetics and Newborn Screening project directed towards contingency planning for newborn screening as well as collect and distribute information for contingency planning locally and nationally.
3. Develop and disseminate newborn screening educational and outreach materials in collaboration with CDC and stakeholders to improve the image of newborn screening.
4. Complete planning for the 2011 Newborn Screening and Genetic Testing Symposium to be held in San Diego, CA. Initiate planning for the joint APHL/ISNS 2013 Symposium in Atlanta.
5. Monitor and review issues and activities related to the retention and use of residual newborn screening specimens.
6. Review and provide guidance into the implementation of newborn screening related HIT standards.
7. Collaborate with NNSGRC to continue newborn screening and genetics training workshops.
8. Work in collaboration with Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program at CDC and the National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center (NNSGRC), to assist in the collection and evaluation of the second routine screening data.

Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee Charge

1. Participate in the Refinement and Development of Public Health Preparedness Guidance Documents and Performance Measures
2. Enhance and Maintain Sentinel Clinical Laboratory Partnerships and Outreach
3. Provide Technical Expertise to Enhance Laboratory Practice, Preparedness and Response
4. Develop and Promote Tools to Enhance Laboratory Preparedness, Planning and Response
5. Expand First Responder Partnerships and Outreach
6. Educate Policymakers and Shape Active and Proposed Legislation of Significance to Public Health Preparedness

Workforce Development Committee

1. Guide and oversee the development and delivery of programs to support laboratory leadership (e.g. New Lab Director Orientation, Emerging Leader Cohorts, Mentoring Advisory Group).
2. Promote certification in public health microbiology.
3. Characterize current and future workforce needs through research and analysis to address workforce issues (e.g. compensation, recruitment, retention, and marketing and promotion).
4. Promote career awareness in laboratory science through collaboration with partners.
5. Advise program staff, volunteers and members on training and continuing education needs and opportunities.