Value of APHL Membership

APHL member laboratories have access to an extensive array of benefits and services to assist in carrying out their critical mission of protecting the public’s health. APHL—and the members who sustain it—are charting the future of the public health laboratory system at a time when laboratory services have never been so important to the nation’s health.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

APHL actively supports members during emergency responses, offering expedited procurement, timely communications and training opportunities, and advocates for resources to support the laboratory workforce and physical infrastructure. Through its advocacy efforts, APHL effectively secures funds for public health laboratories. For instance, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, APHL successfully advocated for funds to support construction and renovation of facilities, investments in modernizing data systems, and high-throughput testing equipment.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Outbreaks and public health events demand timely information. APHL connects member laboratories to best practices and federal agencies in times of crisis, as well as provides assistance with day-to-day operations. Through leveraging shared infrastructure, subject matter expertise, and resources, APHL helps/aims in bridging the gap in the public health workforce, which is often understaffed.

Members have access to a variety of technical assistance opportunities in areas such as project management, business analysis, terminology, technical architecture, system integration, database development, and informatics training. As of 2023, APHL has provided technical assistance to member laboratories for mpox and COVID-19 response, Ebola and Marburg preparedness, data exchange initiatives like PHLIP, Electronic Laboratory Reporting for the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), AR Lab Network and ETOR implementation. Additionally, APHL offered technical assistance to two laboratories seeking to become accredited to the ISO/ IEC 17025 standard. Services included document creation, SOP and methods review and internal audit training.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

APHL provides opportunities to apply for direct funding for a range of projects, including quality systems projects, implementation of specific testing methodologies, software acquisition, support for regional consortia, equipment/service contracts, maintaining reference/support center analyses, evaluation of new instruments and testing algorithms, electronic laboratory reporting and more.

Direct funding to member laboratories totaled over $22 million in 2021 and over $17 million in 2022.

WORKFORCE

APHL was awarded $282 million over five years to strengthen the capacity of our nation’s public health laboratories. The Career Pathways Project will increase the number of qualified personnel by expanding training opportunities and the existing APHL-CDC Fellowship Program and launching a new internship program this spring. The Fellowship Program currently has 137 fellows in 45 laboratories in 36 states. Benefits include hosting a fellow for 1-2 years with funding support for reagents and supplies for the fellow project.

In 2022, APHL’s Newborn Screening Program provided funds to 26 states to implement screening for new disorders, perform continuous quality improvement (CQI) projects or to support improvements during the public health emergency.

In 2022, APHL supported member response to the COVID-19 pandemic through technical assistance with an emphasis on building sequencing capacity, instrument procurement, workforce support and communication and collaboration with public health and federal partners by articulating their needs through APHL’s Incident Command System.

Apply to host an intern and/or fellow!
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

RESOURCES

Members have 24/7 access to timely information and resources, including APHL survey data, guidance for federal grant applications, best practices and scientific guidance, through access to the Member Resource Center, the Public Health Laboratory System Database and Laboratory Profiles (laboratory directors and their delegates), eUpdate, Lab Matters and other valuable benefits. Additionally, member laboratories are connected to APHL’s robust public health laboratory network through CoLABorate, APHL’s online community.

CoLABorate is home to over 800 active users who’ve produced over 19,000 discussion posts since 2017. In 2022, CoLABorate users produced over 4,000 discussion posts for the 3rd year in a row!

DISCOUNTS

Through APHL’s relationships with corporate partners, APHL provides members with a variety of public health pricing discounts for laboratory equipment, reagents, testing supplies, software and service contracts.

For example, one APHL corporate partner offers member laboratories a 42% discount on environmental testing software, including service contracts, and another APHL corporate partner offers member laboratories a 38% discount on LRN Mass Specs and equipment, including service contracts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APHL offers high-quality continuing education and workforce development programs, including technical conferences, webinars, hands-on workshops, seminars and online courses, to strengthen skills and promote excellence in laboratory practice. APHL’s Annual Conference is the only educational event in the nation dedicated to public health laboratory science. APHL also offers fellowship programs, opportunities for member laboratories to host a fellow, and a vibrant emerging leader program.

In 2022, APHL offered 186 professional development opportunities to member laboratories, with almost 28,000 registered or attended. Over 300 total continuing education credit hours were offered.

LABORATORY LEADERSHIP

The New Laboratory Director Orientation, now named Laboratory Leaders of Today, is available to new Directors and Deputy Directors as a year-long comprehensive program. The current revitalized program began in October 2022 and 65 new directors/deputies are participating. Sessions include topics on Regulatory Readiness, Advocacy, Strategic Communication and Strategic Planning. APHL will offer this on a regular basis for new Laboratory Leaders.

Each year APHL’s Emerging Leader Program (ELP) selects a dozen laboratory scientists from member state, local, environmental, and agricultural laboratories to participate in a year-long leadership development program. Through skill development workshops, networking opportunities, leadership exercises and project development, the ELP shapes laboratory scientists into future leaders within the laboratory system. ELP will launch in May/June 2023 for your nominations.

TRAVEL SUPPORT

APHL offers member travel support opportunities for meetings, conferences, trainings, networking, advocacy events and representing APHL.

While travel was limited in 2021 due to safety restrictions, APHL returned to supporting member travel in 2022, spending nearly $900,000 on both domestic and international work.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & GOVERNANCE

APHL members have the opportunity to help govern and guide the association. This includes representing APHL on external workgroups, providing input on subject-specific taskforces, engaging in collaborative committee work, and strengthening laboratory capacity in developing countries. Laboratory Member Representatives are eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

Over 500 laboratory members serve on committees, subcommittees, workgroups or taskforces.

QUESTIONS ABOUT APHL MEMBERSHIP OR BENEFITS?

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