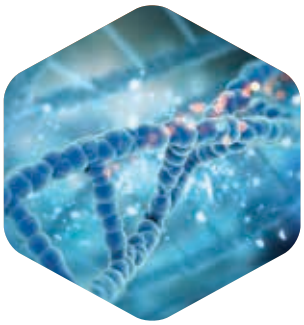
INSTAND

Excellence in Quality

www.instand-international.com



WELCOME
to INSTAND

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

INSTAND, a society for promoting quality assurance in medical laboratories, has been performing proficiency tests as a scientific medical society in all areas of in vitro diagnostics since 1970.

Each diagnosis and prescribed therapy is based on the valid assessment of laboratory values. Achieving validity and comparability of measurement results in laboratories, which may operate worldwide, is one of INSTAND's fundamental goals.

INSTAND operates as a reference institution according to the Guideline of the German Medical Association on Quality Assurance in Medical Laboratory Examinations – Rili-BÄK to ensure quality control in medical laboratories.

We carry out a large number of external quality assessment schemes (EQAS)/proficiency tests (PT) to ensure and improve the quality of laboratory results. This leads to the early detection of diseases and a general improvement of medical care in diagnostics, therapy monitoring, follow-up care, and rehabilitation.

Our success:

- RV-Online platform for paper-free registration, result entry, and access to evaluation documents
- Calibration laboratory for reference methods
- INSTAND Academy with trainings in German and English
- New innovative EQAS/PT in the field of digital microscopy
- Productive and patient-oriented cooperation with renowned experts

We look forward to continuing our productive cooperation.

Your INSTAND Team

Prof. Dr. med.
Michael Spannagl
President of the Board

Prof. Dr. rer. nat.
Ingo Schellenberg
Vice President of the Board

Prof. Dr. med.
Klaus-Peter Hunfeld
Vice President of the Board

Version 7.0, March 2026

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About
INSTAND

INSTAND is an interdisciplinary, non-profit, scientific-medical professional association listed by the German Medical Association as a reference institution for medical laboratories‘ quality control. INSTAND is based in Germany and has more than 300 members worldwide. INSTAND is a member of many national and international professional societies and standardization committees at DIN, CEN, and ISO. INSTAND‘s excellent global scientific network is a valuable tool to draw upon for research projects for quality assurance.

Our Mission

We promote quality in medical laboratories by offering a wide range of external quality controls and continuous education.

Our Vision

Our vision is to improve the reliability of measurement results in medical laboratories worldwide.

Our Core Values

Our values form the basis for our corporate culture and describe who we are, what we stand for, and how we operate.

INSTAND VALUES

- Scientific
- Independent
- Customer Oriented
- Quality Conscious
- Innovative

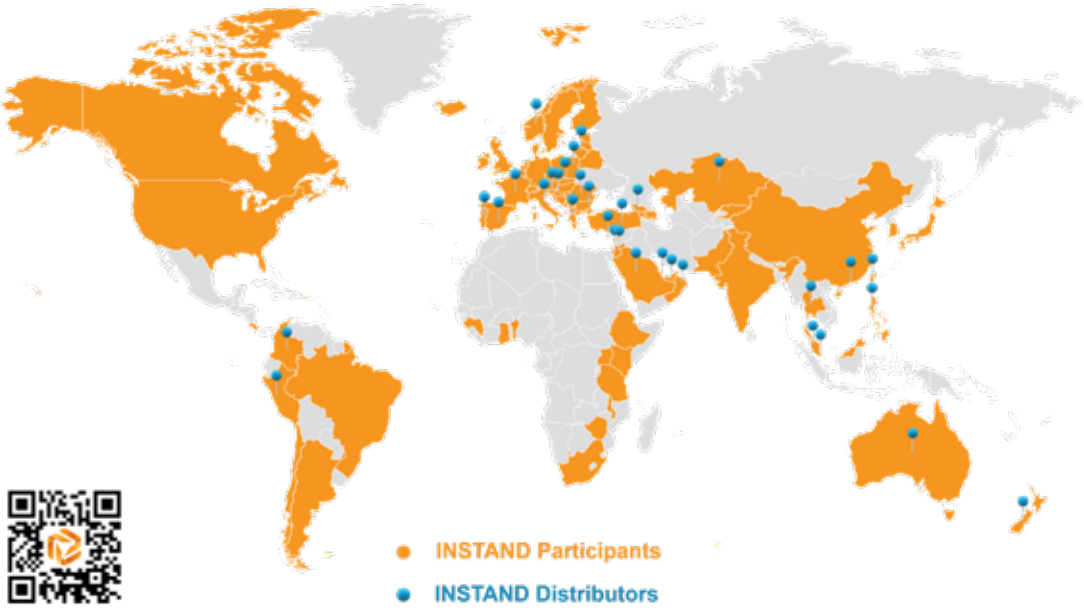
International NETWORK

We offer our EQAS/PT program in currently more than 80 countries. Furthermore, we work together with experienced distributors and select our partners according to our high-quality standards and core values to guarantee INSTAND support in partner countries.

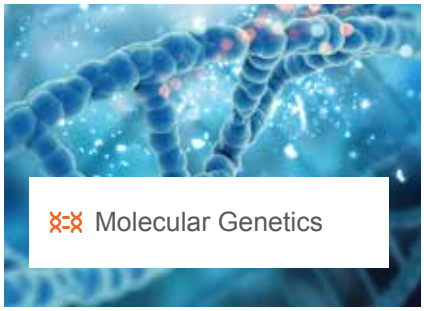
You can find INSTAND's current partner list on our website. We are continually expanding our network. If we are not yet active in your country, please contact us at info@instand-international.com to start the conversation.

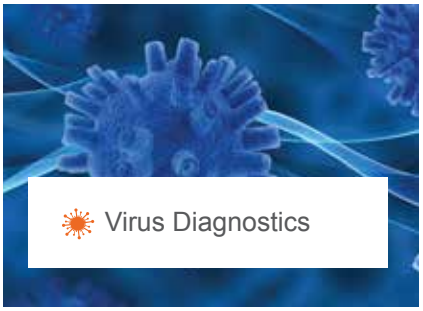
INSTAND GLOBAL AT A GLANCE:

- Active in over 80 countries
- Close collaboration with 30 distributors
- Our team is fluent in German, English, Greek, Turkish, Italian, Russian, Belarusian, and Romanian to assist you individually



EQAS/PT: Quality in **Laboratory Medicine**





Without an appropriate quality control and the verifiability based on firmly defined parameters, the examination of samples using a wide variety of test systems from various manufacturers could lead to deviations that lie far outside the tolerance ranges and thus make appropriate diagnostics/therapy impossible. This is standard practice in thousands of medical laboratories.

EQAS/PT is used as an independent instrument to monitor and promote the reliability of all market participants' laboratory value determinations in all fields of laboratory medicine. INSTAND currently offers nearly 400 proficiency tests worldwide in a wide range of disciplines.

Many EQAS/PT in Germany are mandatory, according to the German Medical Association's Guideline's current version (Rili-BÄK). We also offer many non-mandatory programs with our approximately 100 dedicated experts (physicians/natural scientists). Especially for new analytes, early external quality assurance is of enormous importance for improved patient safety. For example, due to our expertise in virology and the intensive cooperation with the German virological societies, INSTAND established the first worldwide EQAS/PT for genome detection of the new SARS-CoV-2 pathogen.

INSTAND: Guarantee for **Valid Measurements**

- **40 employees**
- **400 EQAS/PT**
- **More than 12,000 participating laboratories**
- **Over 165,000 samples annually**
- **DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043 accreditation**

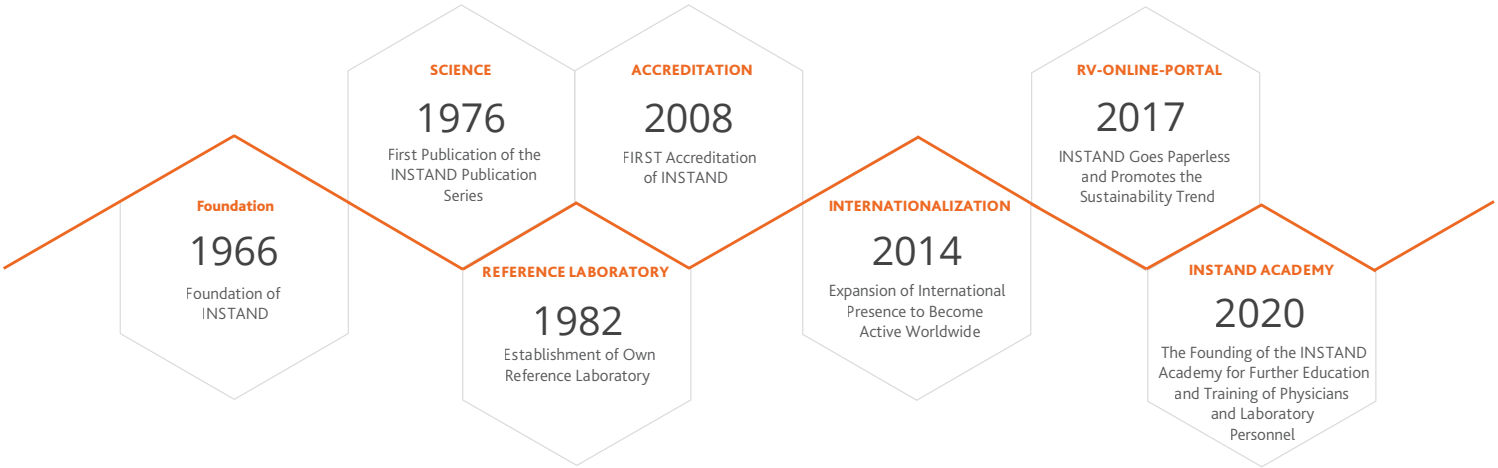
INSTAND, a scientific medical society, has been performing interlaboratory comparisons in hematology since 1968 and in all other areas of in vitro diagnostics since 1970.

According to the German Medical Association's Guideline's current version (Rili-BÄK), we are accredited as a EQAS/PT organization following DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043. We offer nearly 400 EQAS/PT for external quality control in laboratory diagnostics. Every year, we send over 175,000 samples to the more than 12,000 laboratories participating in our proficiency tests in over 80 countries.

Improving the validity and comparability of measurement results in laboratories that also operate worldwide is one of INSTAND's fundamental goals.

DAkkS Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle D-EP-15027-02-00

INSTAND MILESTONES



INSTAND
EQA Schemes/PT

Clinical Chemistry

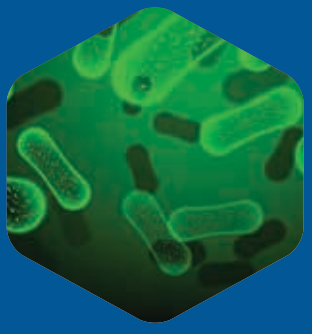
In clinical chemistry, we can present the most diverse proficiency tests with over 130 different schemes, from hemostaseology to hormones, pharmaceuticals, POCT to CSF diagnostics, and much more.

Immunology

Our EQAS/PT for analytes for the immune system cover the areas of immunochemistry, immunogenetics, immunopathology and clinical immunology.

Microbiology

A wide range of EQAS/PT exists for laboratory parameters for the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Included are the various methods for pathogen diagnostics and microscopic, cultural, serological, immunological, and molecular genetic analysis methods.

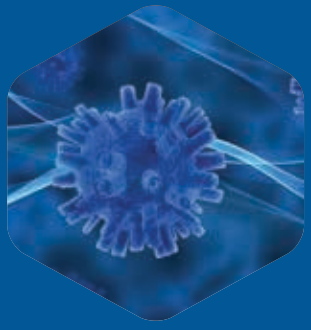


Molecular Genetics

We cover a broad spectrum of molecular and immune genetic proficiency tests for coagulation, metabolism, autoimmunity, transplantation, neurology, and cancer in genetics.

Transfusion Medicine

We offer numerous EQAS/PT on various laboratory parameters to evaluate blood and the hematopoietic organs' physiological and pathological changes in hematology. Our tests include diseases of the blood, formation disorders of the bone marrow, and blood cell changes by immunological processes.



Virus Diagnostics

With a vast number of EQAS/PT in virus immunology and virus genome detection, we offer a comprehensive EQAS/PT program in virus diagnostics, far beyond the spectrum of EQAS/PT subject to Rili-BÄK. One notable accomplishment has been to provide you with four virus panels for multiplex tests over several years.

EQA Scheme/PT
Allergy

In vitro allergy diagnostics

The detection of allergen-specific IgE antibodies in serum is essential in allergy diagnostics to diagnose its corresponding sensitization of the immune system. INSTAND offers proficiency tests for in vitro allergy diagnostics (EQAS 720) and the basophil activation test (EQAS 653).

The aim is to improve the comparability of specific IgE determinations against various inhalation, food, and insect venom allergens in different medical laboratories as an essential prerequisite for diagnosis. This unique, long-term data situation also allows INSTAND to perform a longitudinal evaluation of the results.

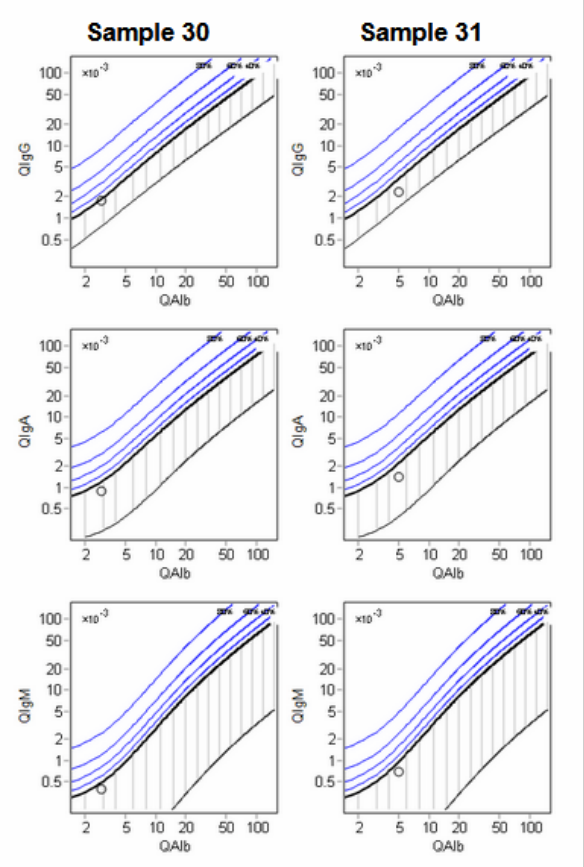
All our EQAS/PT samples come from patients with clinically defined allergies, and the samples are selected explicitly for each EQA Schemes/PT cycle.

EQAS/PT Experts in in-vitro Allergy Diagnostics
Prof. Dr. med. Ulrich Sack
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ingo Schellenberg

A detailed overview of the Allergy Scheme can be found via this QR Code.

EQAS/PT Experts in CSF Analysis
Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Manfred Uhr
Dr. rer. nat. Thomas Zimmermann

A detailed overview of the CSF Diagnostics programm can be found via this QR Code.



Real CSF samples in many EQA Schemes/ PT

EQA Schemes/PT
CSF Diagnostics

The competent interpretation of CSF data by clinical chemists, neurologists and psychiatrists is essential for the quality of neurochemical diagnostics. INSTAND provides a unique set of EQAS/PT covering different areas of CSF analytic including classical CSF protein analysis, MRZ reaction, neuroborreliosis, free light chains kappa, dementia markers and oligoclonal IgG. Due to the close cooperation with specialized laboratories, universities and institutions, INSTAND is able to provide real CSF samples in many of these EQAS/PT, providing a unique possibility to analyze the correct sample.

EQA Schemes/PT

Bacterial/Fungal Genome Detection PCR/NAT

Pathogens inactivated (sample material not infectious)

Storage stability at -20°C of individual samples older than eight years

For our EQAS/PT to detect bacterial and fungal genomes, qualified target laboratories are involved in each sample set composition. They provide interesting clinical variants of the target organisms or isolates from current outbreaks. These sample sets may also contain additional rare or new variants of the target organisms for educational purposes. The individual target organisms' type and quantity in the pathogen-specific sample sets differ between the individual EQAS/PT.

The pathogens, some highly infectious, are made inactive via unique biophysical and chemical processes while mostly retaining their typical cell wall structures. Lyophilization takes place in a proprietary matrix that represents the consistency of typical clinical sample material due to the presence of human cell material, proteins, and bacterial and biochemical components.

The production process, which has been continuously optimized over time, ensures storage stability of the individual samples of more than eight years at -20°C and more than three months at room temperature. With quality control of different sets of individual production batches using quantitative real-time PCR, homogeneity levels of 98 to 100% of pathogen-specific target sequences are regularly detected.

EQAS/PT Expert for Bacterial and Fungal Genome Detection PCR/NAT
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Udo Reischl
Prof. Dr. Dr. rer. nat. André Gessner

A detailed overview of Bacterial/Fungal Genome Detection Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

EQA Schemes/PT
Bacteriologic Infection Serology

Antibodies provide indications as to whether an acute or chronic infection is present

For the direct detection of pathogens, a culture is considered the gold standard of microbiological diagnostics. However, for some bacterial infectious diseases, the microorganisms are only detectable to a limited extent, or direct pathogen detection is difficult due to the demanding culture characteristics.

Since microorganisms stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies, they indicate the pathogen and whether an acute or chronic infection is present. The detection of clinical infection markers is also of interest in this process.

Further indicators for serological pathogen detection are the control of vaccination success and the exclusion of autoimmune diseases in the delimitation and for the diagnosis of immunopathological sequelae after infection. These indicators allow the etiological clarification.

EQAS/PT Expert in Bacteriological Infection Serology

Prof. Dr. med. Klaus-Peter Hunfeld

A detailed overview of all Bacterial/ Infection Serology Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

Advantages of our unique EQAS/PT concept

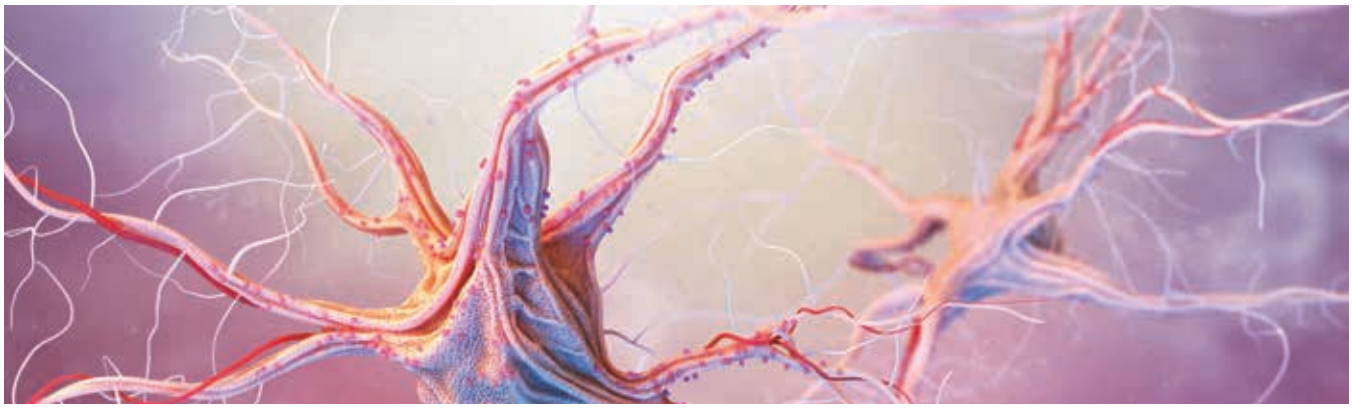
In addition to classical antibody detections, INSTAND also offers EQAS/PT for antigen assays for specific pathogens. The EQAS/PT samples' quality is fundamental to enable laboratories to review their test systems and evaluation standards critically. Therefore, only authentic samples without interfering matrix effects from patients with clearly defined symptoms are used.

Our manufacturing process, which has been perfected for over a decade, allows the precise delivery of native sample material during the EQAS/PT. In addition, once prepared, the EQAS/PT samples are stable for decades in a frozen state at -20°C. They are available to participants in selected cases to evaluate test systems and for individual troubleshooting.

EQA Schemes/PT
Diagnostic-Genetic Analysis

EQAS/PT Experts in Diagnostic-Genetic Analysis
Dr. rer. nat. Morten O. Christensen
Dr. rer. nat. Ralf-Rüdiger Flörke
Dr. med. Claudia Frömmel
PD Dr. rer. nat. Julia Hentschel
Prof. Dr. med. Karl-Anton Kreuzer
Dr.-Ing. Nils Lachmann
Dr. rer. nat. Susanna Schubert
Prof. Dr. med. Folker Wenzel

A detailed overview of all Diagnostic-Genetic Analysis Schemes can be found via this QR Code.



More than 70 different parameters

Molecular genetic methods are finding more and more applications in human medicine, such as coagulation, general metabolic processes, autoimmunity, transplantation, neurology, and cancer diagnostics. Over long periods and across all types of analysis, the average error rate is just over 1%. This error rate may seem low, but it is substantial given the particular importance of human genetic results and findings. An accumulation of errors can be observed in specific analyses, especially at the beginning of the control by EQAS/PT and individual laboratories. Continuous quality control is, therefore, a must to ensure and improve the quality of the analysis. Our spectrum comprises over 70 different parameters and it is continually expanding.

EQA Schemes/PT
Hematology

INSTAND offers a wide range of EQA schemes/PT in the field of hematological analysis. Our external quality control programs map pure laboratory diagnostics. They include the diagnostic approach of step-by-step diagnostics in a routine laboratory and more advanced analyses in a specialized hematology laboratory.

One of the most important goals of the hematological proficiency tests is the standardization of hematological diagnostics. New parameters are promptly included in the EQAS/PT portfolio. If the provision of suitable EQA/PT samples is not possible, modern technologies such as the virtual microscope are used in the bone marrow cytology EQA /PT scheme.

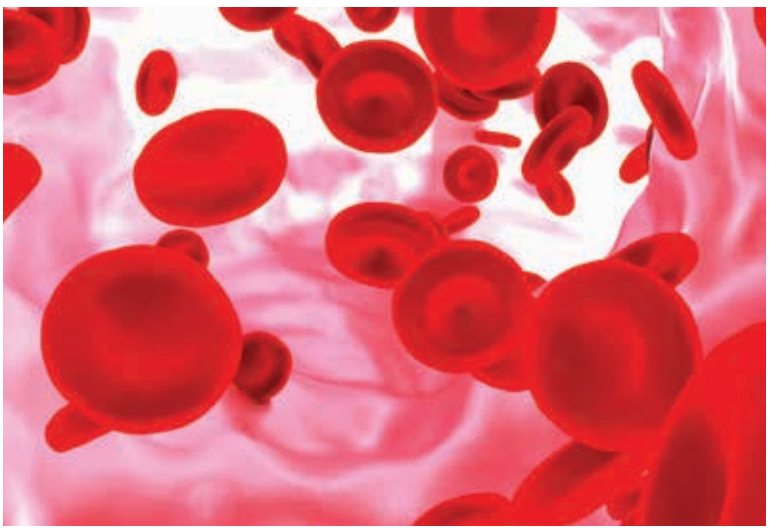
The evaluation of the EQAS/PT is performed in cooperation with expert laboratories, thus ensuring the high quality of our hematological EQAS/PT. Our EQAS/PT Experts high level of expertise enables an evaluation that considers current laboratory diagnostic conditions and medical viewpoints.

The hematological proficiency tests are conducted in close cooperation with the German Society for Hematology and Oncology (DGHO). The DGHO Laboratory Working Group closely monitors them through a panel of experts.

Use of modern technologies, e.g. virtual microscope

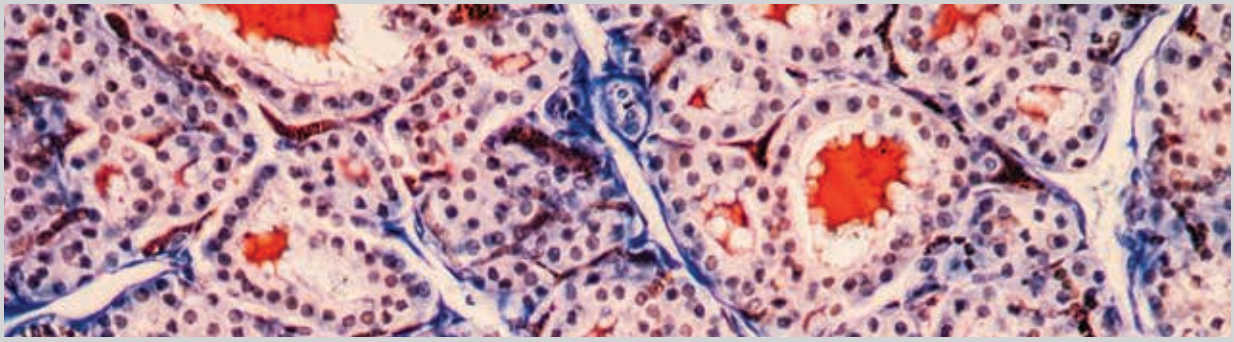
Close cooperation with the German Society for Hematology and Oncology (DGHO)

EQAS/PT Experts in Hematology
Prof. Dr. med. Nicolas von Ahsen
Dr. med. Claudia Frömmel
Prof. Dr. med. Kai Gutensohn
Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. Torsten Haferlach
Dr. med. Britta Höchsmann
Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Humpe
Prof. Dr. med. Wolfgang Kern
Dr. med. Benedikt Lohr
Dr. med. Richard Schabath
Prof. Dr. Marion Subklewe



A detailed overview of all Hematology Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

EQA Schemes/PT
Hormones



EQAS/PT Experts in Endocrinology
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. med. Jürgen Durner
Prof. Dr. med. Peter B. Luppa
Prof. Dr. med. Folker Wenzel

A detailed overview of all Hormone Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

Target value determination through reference methods

Since proper diagnosis and therapy of some endocrine disorders is only possible using hormone determinations, endocrinological diagnoses are not feasible without accurate laboratory determinations of hormones. Our EQAS/PT include analytes for evaluating thyroid disorders, bone metabolism disorders, disorders in the gonadal/adrenal-pituitary axis control loop, and pregnancy complications.

For the interlaboratory studies, sample material of native origin is used whenever possible, partly in lyophilized form for stabilization. We are currently conducting extensive commutability studies of the sample material to improve our EQAS/PT further.

Target values for steroid hormones are determined using reference methods. In the future, target values for significantly more parameters will be determined using reference methods to enable an evaluation of EQAS/PT based on accuracy, via the metrological traceability of the target values. This allows for an objective evaluation of results that is independent of device-specific determination methods.

EQA Schemes/PT
Immunology

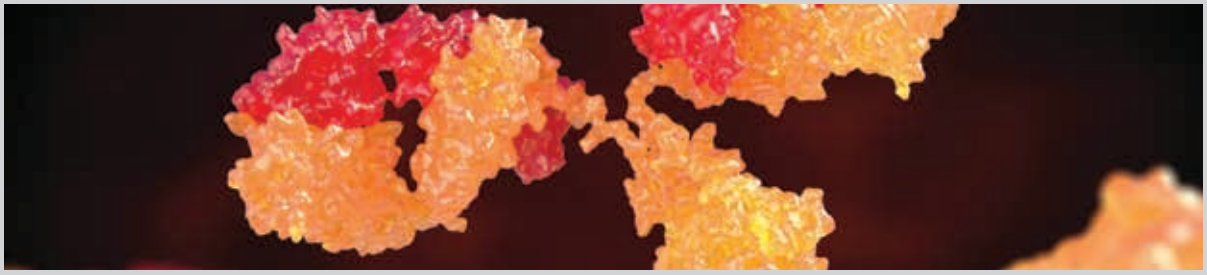
INSTAND has a broad and innovative range of EQAS/PT for immunodiagnostics. Our offer includes both serological and cellular parameters and is suitable for standard diagnostics and specialized laboratories.

- In the context of clinical immunology, we offer external quality control for the complement system, humane leucocyte antigen, and immunoglobulin G subclasses.
- Our EQAS/PT samples for detecting autoimmune diseases are extensively characterized by selected experts and cover a rich spectrum of different autoantibodies.
- Our many years of logistical experience allow the shipment of fresh blood samples with living cells required for external quality control of cellular immune function diagnostics. The same applies to EQAS/PT for classic immune status, detailed cellular differentiation analysis, and functional markers.
- Our EQAS/PT for HLA diagnostics contribute to quality assurance in organ and stem cell transplantation.

Many years of logistical experience allows the shipment of fresh blood samples with living cells

EQAS/PT Experts in Immunology
Dr. rer. nat. Martin Blüthner
Prof. Dr. med. Wolfgang Kern
Dr. med. Uwe Kölsch
Dr.-Ing. Nils Lachmann
Prof. Dr. Zoltan Prohaszka
Prof. Dr. med. Ulrich Sack
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ingo Schellenberg

A detailed overview of all Immunology Schemes can be found via this QR Code.



EQAS/PT Experts in Immunohematology/ Hemostaseology
Prof. Dr. med. Ulrich Sachs
Prof. Dr. med. Dirk Peetz
Dr. med. Torsten J. Schulze
Prof. Dr. med. Michael Spannagl
PD Dr. med. Franz F. Wagner

A detailed overview of all Immunohematology/Hemostaseology Schemes can be found via the QR Codes:

Immunohematology

Hemostaseology

A broad spectrum of proficiency tests for acute treatment of vital threatening diseases

EQA Scheme /PT **Immunohematology Hemostaseology**

We offer a broad spectrum of immunohematological and hemostaseological EQAS/PT, from whole blood EQAS/PT to molecular genetics.

Our wide range of proficiency tests covers different analytical techniques for complex biological systems in whole blood, from near-patient POCT procedures to fully automated 24/7 laboratories. The typing of clinically relevant blood group systems is also checked in the external quality control.

Some of these EQAS/PT have a direct influence on the acute treatment of vital threatening diseases. The requirements for the EQAS/PT samples and the evaluation of the results are correspondingly high. We work diligently to represent the complex biology of proteins and cells in whole blood in EQAS/PT samples.

EQA Schemes/PT
Mycology

New sequencing methods secure pathogen diagnostics

The diagnosis of fungal infections is changing. The conventional phenotypic and often lengthy identification of pathogens is increasingly being supplemented or replaced by molecular methods such as MALDI-TOF MS and PCR methods where applicable. Therefore, for these modern, rapid and sensitive diagnostic methods, external quality controls must be developed on time. The lyophilized samples used in these EQAS/PT are modeled on clinical samples. An example of this is the dermatophyte genome detection available since 2015.

In addition to the new analytical methods' external quality control, our EQAS/PT of the conventional methods for phenotypic/serological fungal detection are also in high demand. In these, sequencing helps to taxonomically validate the pathogen selection before the EQAS/PT is performed. To offer the participants a broad mycological spectrum, we map rare pathogens and varying concentrations of different strains of current outbreaks. This process creates additional security for the participants and the quality of the proficiency tests.

EQAS/PT Experts in Mycology
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Yvonne Gräser
Prof. Dr. med. Gerhard Haase
Prof. Dr. med. Pietro Nenoff
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Udo Reischl
PD Dr. med. Volker Rickerts
Prof. Dr. med. Michael S. Weig

A detailed overview of all Mycology Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

EQA Schemes/PT
Parasitology

EQAS/PT Experts in Parasitology
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Marc Hübner
Prof. Dr. med. Egbert Tannich

A detailed overview of all Parasitology Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

Morphological and antibody diagnostics

Parasitic infections are rarely diagnosed in the average population of western industrialized countries. Particular circumstances such as travel, migration, or immunosuppression increase the risk of contracting a parasitic infection, such as potentially lethal malaria.

With the Parasite Detection EQAS/PT, laboratories are offered the possibility to check their knowledge on blood and intestinal parasites‘ morphology and archive the permanent preparations and detailed comments for training purposes. A diagnosis is based on antibody detection and assessing serological test results of an acute or expired infection for tissue parasites.

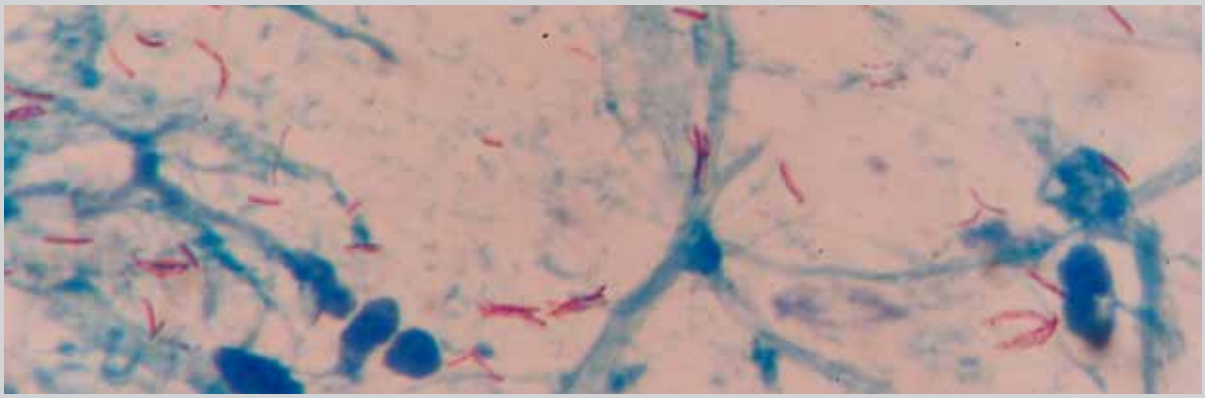
Only plasma from specific donors meeting clinical and travel requirements is used in the parasite immunology EQAS/PT. This unique concept enables the laboratories to obtain sensitivity and specificity data through continuous quality control. It further indicates the clinical-diagnostic value of various tests.

EQA Schemes/PT
Pharmaceuticals

Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) is the clinical laboratory measurement of a drug (component) which will directly influence drug prescribing procedures. Additionally, the monitoring refers to the individualization of drug dosage by maintaining plasma or blood drug concentrations within a certain therapeutic range. On the other hand, it is important to detect, if a patient has already taken a chemical compound to enable detoxification and prevent harmful interferences. Therefore, the correct identification of the substances in plasma or blood, and in some cases the exact amount is crucial for the best possible care for patients. Therefore, INSTAND offers a variety of EQAS/PT schemes for pharmaceuticals and drugs of abuse.

A detailed overview of all Pharmaceutical Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

EQAS/PT Experts in Pharmaceuticals
Prof. Dr. med. Nicolas von Ahsen
Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Ekkehard Haen
Dr. rer. nat Heike Schneider
Prof. Dr. med. Werner Steimer



EQAS/PT Expert for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis and other Mycobacteria

Dr. Sönke Andres

A detailed overview of all Tuberculosis Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

EQA Schemes/PT **Tuberculosis**

High quality EQAS/PT schemes for all laboratory methods for the detection of TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's oldest infectious disease which still kills millions of people every year. It is estimated that one quarter of the world's population is latently infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis. Acute and rapid diagnosis is crucial for initiating the correct treatment of TB. There are several methods available for diagnosis with the direct detection of the pathogen in sputum and tissue samples like culture, microscopy and nucleic amplification tests. Additionally, as multidrugresistant tuberculosis is a growing concern, susceptibility testing is essential for the correct treatment of a patient. Due to the close cooperation with the national reference center for mycobacteria in Borstel, INSTAND is able to provide high quality EQAS/PT schemes for all laboratory methods for the detection of TB.

EQA Schemes/PT
Tumormarker/Liquid Biopsy

- Biomarkers for the progression diagnostics of various tumors
- INSTAND offers a comprehensive panel of clinically relevant tumor markers

A detailed overview of thel Tumor Marker Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

Early detection and treatment of a tumor disease is the prerequisite for good recovery chances in affected individuals. With the targeted determination of tumor markers, valuable diagnostic information can be obtained in the differential diagnosis of tumor disease, prognosis assessment, evaluation of tumor therapy response, and early detection of tumor recurrence.

However, when using tumor markers, selecting appropriate markers is necessary to interpret the results correctly for different tumor types, such as the knowledge of their sensitivity and specificity, potential clinical and preanalytical influencing and interfering factors, and individual methodological peculiarities tumor marker assays. EQAS/PT are an essential tool to assess whether the laboratory arrangement meets the vital requirements. INSTAND monitors sample material usage to ensure similarity to the patient sample and continuously improves the tumor panel following the latest developments.

The current panel of clinically relevant tumor markers includes, e.g., CEA, CA19-9, Her2/neu, ProGRP, and the ROMA-SCORE. INSTAND also offers a tumor marker panel specifically adapted for urological diagnostics and for liquid biopsy.

EQAS/PT Expert in Tumor Markers

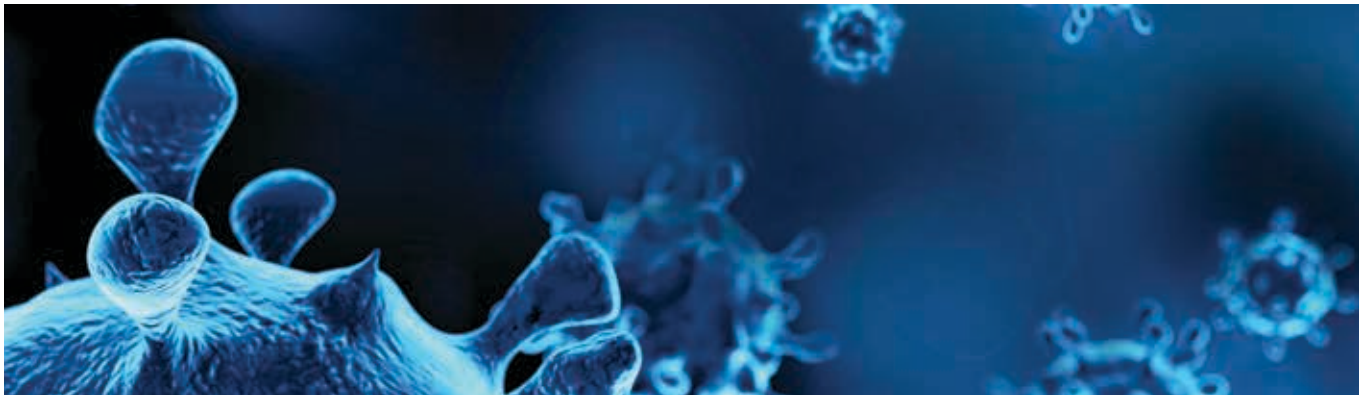
Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Holdenrieder

EQA Schemes/PT
Viral Genome Detection PCR/NAT

A detailed overview of all Viral Genome Detection PCR/NAT Schemes can be found via this QR Code.

For the EQAS/PT schemes for the direct detection of various viruses by PCR/NAT or antigen testing, INSTAND cooperates with national institutions like the Paul Ehrlich Institute, the Robert-Koch-Institute, the Bernhard-Nocht-Institute, WHO Collaborating centers and several national reference centers and consulting laboratories. These collaborations enable the fast implementation of new viral variants into EQAS/PT schemes to contribute to pandemic preparedness and optimal patient care. New methods like sequencing and multiplex assays are implemented in a timely manner to enable an early inclusion in quality control. Additionally, resistance determination is of growing interest for the standardization of therapy monitoring. According to the analyte specification, the virological EQAS/PT allow each sample to be tested in parallel with several test platforms in a single test.

EQAS/PT Experts for Viral Genome and Antigen Detection
Prof. Dr. med. Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit
Prof. Dr. med. Martin Enders
PD Dr. med. Albert Heim
Dr. rer. nat. Rolf Kaiser
Dr. rer. nat. Kerstin Knies
Dr. med. Martin Obermeier
Prof. Dr. rer. med. Holger F. Rabenau
Dr. rer. nat. Axel Schubert
Dr. rer. net. Steffi Silling
Prof. Dr. med. Jörg Timm



EQA Schemes/PT
Viral Infection Serology

EQAS/PT Experts for Viral Infection Serology
Prof. Dr. med. Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit
Prof. Dr. med. Martin Enders
Prof. Dr. Jörg Hofmann
Dr. rer. nat. Rolf Kaiser
Dipl.-Biol. Dr. med. Martin Obermeier
Dr. Axel Schubert
Prof. Dr. rer. med. Holger F. Rabenau
Prof. Dr. med. Jörg Timm

A detailed overview of all Viral Infection Serology can be found via this QR Code.

While recent developments have made direct detection of viruses using PCR/NAT easier and more widespread, indirect detection of pathogens via antibody response remains an important diagnostic tool.

Serology can help to distinguish between a fresh and a past infection. It can give a hint towards a latent infection, where a direct pathogen detection is not or hardly possible. Additionally, serology can be used to assess the current immunization status, especially after a vaccination.

Like for the viral genome detection, INSTAND can rely on its vast network of specialists and institutions to be able to provide samples with different antibody concentrations and varying antigen binding profiles. According to the analyte specification, the virological EQAS/PT allow each sample to be tested in parallel with several test platforms in a single test.

Virological proficiency tests allow each sample to be tested in parallel with several test platforms in a single test

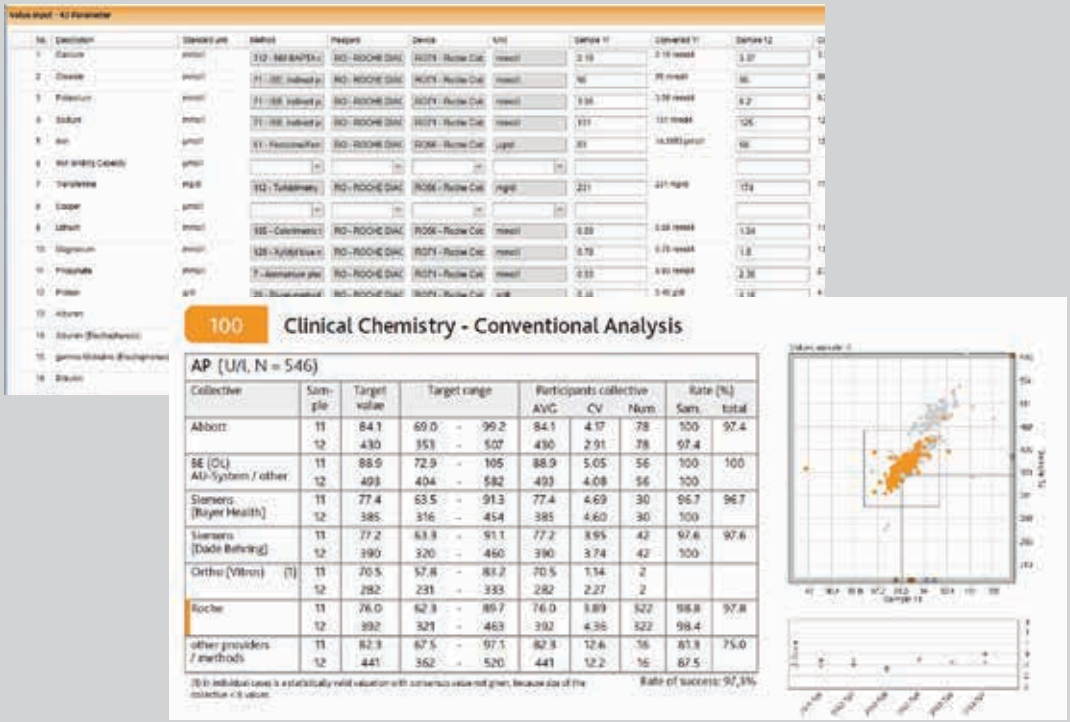
EQA Scheme/PT
Organization/Evaluation

Input and evaluation program via the RV-Online portal

INSTAND is a member of the Association of Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF) and is listed by the German Medical Association as a reference institution for performing external quality assurance in medical laboratories.

As experts in their respective fields, the test administrators evaluate the results of proficiency tests to continuously improve the quality of medical laboratory diagnostics. The general and special parts of the German Medical Association's guidelines (Rili-BÄK) provide essential cornerstones for this.

In 2017, we installed a new input and evaluation program. At the beginning of 2021, we optimized our website (www.instand-ev.de).



More Reliability **with POCT**

External quality control for Point of Care Testing (POCT) is particularly challenging because these tests are calibrated on untreated whole blood. However, these whole blood tests cannot be used in interlaboratory comparisons without special pretreatment due to the lack of stability of many parameters (e.g., anticoagulants).

In some cases, artificial samples must also be used to make volatile parameters such as blood gases available for external quality control.

A detailed overview of the POCT program can be found via this QR Code.

Features of the POCT are:

- Easy operability
- Patient-oriented use
- No additional sample preparation
- Use of unit-use reagents

Capture of important vital signs by Point of Care Testing (POCT)

INSTAND
Academy

As a medical-scientific society, we offer an extensive program of continued education on various advanced topics. While the majority of our training programs are currently in German, our English program is growing continuously. New information will be posted on our website and on LinkedIn.

INSTAND Academy at a glance:

Case Collection Differential Blood Count

Case collections with ten hematological smear preparations each can be leased for self-study. The participants may keep the corresponding German solution booklets.

CSF Cytodiagnostics Training On-Site

We offer CSF cytodiagnostic training courses in cooperation with the German Society for CSF Diagnostics and Clinical Neurochemistry e.V. The training includes seminar lectures with the participants' active participation and a practical microscopy test performance at the end of the course.

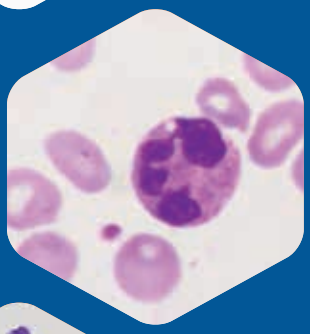
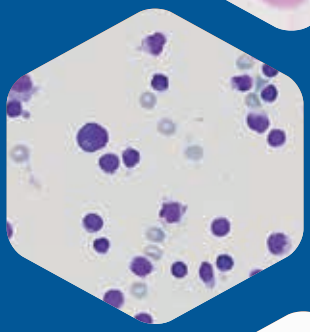
Online training courses

Online questionnaires with detailed expert answers are offered in various fields (e.g., pre-analytics, urine sediment). In addition, it is possible to analyze microscopic images in our virtual microscope. These courses are already available in English and are meant for advanced personnel.

Seminars and conferences

As a medical and scientific society, we present the findings from the EQAS/PT at various events. We also organize seminars and conferences on quality assurance in medical laboratories, as well as basic and advanced medical seminars. Some seminars are already offered in English.

Where possible, CME points are applied for at the responsible state medical associations.

INSTAND
Calibration Laboratory

Our calibration laboratory is equipped with high-end instruments for mass spectrometry, chromatography, photometry, and other state-of-the-art analytical equipment.

The laboratory's main task is to determine target values in EQAS/PT with reference measurement methods as required by the Rili-BÄK for 28 different analytes in whole blood, serum, urine, or cerebrospinal fluid. Reference measurement methods are internationally recognized analytical methods of the highest metrological order. Using exact analytical procedures and tracing them back to primary reference standards, the reference method value comes as close as technically possible to the "true" value.

Our calibration laboratory has been accredited per DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and DIN EN ISO 15195 since 2006 and is listed with its accredited analytes in the Joint Committee for Traceability database in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) for calibration services. With this listing, calibration work is offered on an international level for external clients like EQAS/PT organizations or diagnostic manufacturers.

An additional focus of the laboratory is developing new reference measurement methods for further laboratory medical measurands. For this purpose, we are active with international partners in various scientific networks such as the IFCC and work in close co-operation with the PTB and other national metrological institutes.

Meet us
HERE!

INSTAND Team: Our well-established and versatile team is looking forward to supporting you in all areas concerning EQA Schemes/PT.

Every year you can meet us in person at numerous events, such as:

- Exhibitions
- Seminars
- Workshops and
- Our INSTAND Annual Symposium

You can find out about upcoming events at any time on our event calendar on our website.

We would be happy to get to know you better in a personal meeting to discuss cooperation possibilities. Make the first contact via:

+49 (0)211 876 3529 0

info@instand-international.com

Follow us: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Calibration Laboratory
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Parasitology
Quality Assurance
Quality Control
Tumor Marker
customer oriented
Hematology
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Genetics
Immunology
Mycology
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POCT

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