

Membership of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

A.J. Wallard, Director BIPM

May 2004

The BIPM, together with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) have recently created a Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM). The aim of this Committee is to provide a worldwide platform to promote and give guidance on internationally recognized and accepted equivalence of measurements in Laboratory Medicine and traceability to appropriate measurement standards.

The Committee is currently chaired by Prof J. Thijssen (IFCC) and the secretariat is held by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM).

The JCTLM wishes to make use of the best expert information and advice, and to involve all appropriate organizations which are authorities in their fields of professional and technical competence so that they can express the views of their members in the Committee. Principles concerning the participation of Organizations in the JCTLM are outlined within the declaration of cooperation document (<http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/declaration.html>).

A major driving force for the establishment of the Joint Committee has been the implementation of the European Directive 98/79/EC on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices, which included the requirement for the traceability of values assigned to calibrators and control materials for *in vitro* diagnostic devices to be assured through available reference measurement procedures and/or reference materials of higher order. The JCTLM currently makes use of ISO 17511, 15193 and 15194 to describe the essential requirements for higher order reference materials and methods. These standards have also been employed by its working groups to perform technical peer reviews of reference materials and procedures which have been nominated for its consideration. A database of 'higher order reference materials and reference measurement procedures' resulting from this on-going process has recently been published (<http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/jctlm-db/>). A database of reference laboratories that can be used by the IVD industry and others to meet requirements for traceability for *in vitro* diagnostics and laboratory medicine measurements is also in preparation.

Organizations that wish to be involved in the work of the Joint Committee should supply the information requested in the Annex to Appendix IV of the declaration of cooperation document to the JCTLM Secretariat, either electronically <jctlm@bipm.org> or in written form, so that it may be considered by the JCTLM Executive Committee.

A.J. WALLARD
Director, BIPM
May 2004

.../...