

## **TECHNIQUE OF MICROFLUIDIC DIGITAL PCR (dPCR) TO ASSURE TRACEABILITY IN SARS-COV-2 IDENTIFICATION AND QUANTIFICATION IN MEXICO.**

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Mexico officially identified its first COVID-19 case in February 28<sup>th</sup>. The detection was made by RT-PCR techniques and Mexican positive controls for SARS-CoV2, developed by the Institute for Diagnostics and Epidemiological Reference (INDRE in Spanish), from the Ministry of Health in Mexico, in order to assure the quality of the measurements.



In support of this initiative, CENAM's Bioanalysis Group (BIOAG) is working on a method of identification and quantification of SARS-CoV2-COVID19 by the technique of microfluidic digital PCR (dPCR). dPCR is considered a potentially primary technique, recognized by the Nucleic Analysis Working Group (NAWG) to establish measurement traceability for nucleic acids copy number. INDRE has sequenced the SARS-CoV2 that it is circulating in Mexico. Consequently, BIOAG is planning to develop and certify a Reference Material (RM) considering the SARS-CoV2 target genes of the main strains identified in our territory. Additionally, we plan to share this experience with other Latin American Countries in order to develop and certify a RM for the SIM region in early November, 2020.

During April and May, some Latin American countries have been discussing a Mexican draft proposal for the development and certification of a candidate for RM for SARS-CoV2 and their participation in the project.



CENAM's BIOAG, is part of the group of laboratories that are going to participate in the CCQM NAWG P199b: SARS-CoV-2 RNA copy number quantification pilot comparison, scheduled to begin in June, 2020.

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