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Report of the activities of the Reference Institute for Bioanalytics (RfB)

The RfB organizes an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for medical laboratories internationally. EQAS is performed regularly in accordance with the Directives of the German Medical Association for quality assurance of medical laboratory tests. These directives were created by the German Medical Association in close cooperation with the national metrology institute (PTB), the scientific society (DGKL), and external assessment providers (e.g. RfB) since 1971 and prescribe the implementation of the traceability concept since 1987.

Therefore, RfB performs the evaluation of the results of medical laboratories by use of reference measurement target values as far as reference measurements systems are available.

The calibration laboratories of RfB are accredited according to ISO 17025 and ISO 15198 for 31 measurands and their services are listed in the JCTLM database. In cooperation with PTB the calibration laboratories of RfB develop and optimize new reference procedures.

Since 2003 RfB organizes - under the umbrella of the IFCC - an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for calibration laboratories in clinical chemistry (RELA) annually. RELA surveys are currently provided for 35 measurands. The participants are NMIs, calibration laboratories, and candidate laboratories. More than 50 laboratories participate, and each year RfB receives more than 300 results from these laboratories. All results of RELA 2003 to RELA 2014 are published on the website with open access (www.dgkl-rfb.de:81).

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