

15 March 2023

To the FWD AMR-RefLabCap network

Dear Colleague and network member,

With this mail you are invited to participate in the

Second external quality assessment for WGS-based resistome profiling in antimicrobial-resistant *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* (EQA2-WGS-AMR)

The EQA2-WGS-AMR is organised by the FWD AMR-RefLabCap project and all National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) in the project are invited to participate. The EQA2-WGS-AMR is the second in a series of three EQAs to be carried out in 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively.

The aim of the three FWD AMR-RefLabCap EQAs is to support further development and implementation of the proposed protocol for whole genome sequencing-based analysis for detection and tracing of epidemic clones of antimicrobial resistant *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, developed in the FWD AMR-RefLabCap project. The current version of the protocol is available from the project website (<https://www.fwdamr-reflabcap.eu/resources/protocols-and-guidelines>) and when participating in the EQA2-WGS-AMR, you are recommended to follow the guidelines in the protocol.

DNA from test strains and methods:

Depending on your NRL area, you can sign up for the *Salmonella* part and/or the *Campylobacter* part of the EQA. You will be provided with dried DNA from the three *Salmonella* and/or three *Campylobacter* strains. Instructions on how to dissolve the DNA will be provided when the package is sent.

You shall perform Whole Genome Sequencing on the received DNA and analyse the sequences for genes and point mutations that confer antimicrobial resistance. It is optional to report the sequence type (ST) of test strains of both organisms, as well as *Campylobacter* species and *Salmonella* serotype (by analysis of the WGS data).

Reporting of results:

The results shall be reported on a web-based platform, where you have the option to report the identified AMR genes and point mutations, the ST, *Campylobacter* species and serotype for *Salmonella*. You will further be asked to report information on your applied methods and the selected quality control metrics. The reporting platform will be open for submission of results shortly after the dispatch of test DNA.

Feedback

Participating laboratories will receive an evaluation report. All submitted data will be analysed and the main conclusions will be compiled in a short report that will contain anonymised data. This report will be disseminated to the network and other relevant stakeholders.

Registration:

Please respond to this letter latest by the 29th of March 2023 using the online form at

(individual link)

DATES TO REMEMBER

The DNA from the test strains will be shipped from SSI on the 8th of May 2023 and the deadline for submission of results is 16th of June 2023.

29 March 2023 – Deadline to respond to the invitation online

8 May 2023 – Shipment of test strains from SSI, Copenhagen, Denmark

30 June 2023 - Deadline for online submission of results

We kindly ask you to provide the following details in the online registration form:

- Contact details for package shipping
- Contact information of the person that will submit the result
- Specify which parts of the EQA2-AMR-WGS you wish to participate in (*Salmonella* and/or *Campylobacter*)

The DNA that you receive for the EQA2-AMR-WGS (from *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*) is for internal use in your laboratory and must not be distributed to other laboratories/institutions without permission from the Statens Serum Institut. In the online form you are asked to confirm your acceptance of this.

If you need further information, please contact fwdamr@ssi.dk

Regards,

FWD AMR RefLabCap Project Team

Department of Bacteria, Parasites & Fungi,

Unit of Foodborne Infections

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