

# INSTAND

## Promoting Quality in Medical Laboratories



Volume 4, October 2025

## INSTAND NEWSLETTER

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Dear Colleagues,

We warmly welcome you to the fall edition of the INSTAND newsletter, which covers the following topics:

- Gerold Stanek Prize: jointly awarded by ÖGHMP & INSTAND e.V.
- News about the INSTAND EQA Schemes:
  - INSTAND EQA Scheme Program 2026
  - New EQA Scheme 821
  - New Parameter for EQA Scheme 299
  - Additional Dates for EQA Scheme 653
  - New EQA Scheme option for immunohematology
- Contribution by Prof. Dr. med. Peter B. Lupp (EQA Scheme Expert & INSTAND e.V. Board Member): 'Quality assessment of laboratory measurements of plasma glucose and HbA1c with regard to epidemiology and clinical management of diabetes mellitus in Germany'
- INSTAND Academy:
  - Online-Seminar for EQAS 212 and 218 on November 6: Register now for free!
  - Evaluation of EQAS in cerebrospinal fluid diagnostics with Prof. Dr. Uhr on December 4
  - New English-language seminar on biostatistics at the end of January 2026: Registration until December 19
- INSTAND Publication:
  - ADLM Poster Presentation by M.Sc. Alexander Larbig (INSTAND Calibration Laboratory): 'Analysis of the suitability of the whole blood beads model as control material in glucose point-of-care testing for external quality assessment schemes'
  - English Publication: 'Comparison of Thrombophilia Assay Results for the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Scientific and Standardization Committee Plasma Standard from Different External Quality Assessment Providers—for the External Quality Assurance'
  - English Publication: 'Detection of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in external quality assessment programmes: a pandemic preparedness initiative'
- Future Events

Happy reading!

Kind regards,  
Your INSTAND Team

Prof. Dr. med. Michael Spannagl  
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ingo Schellenberg  
Prof. Dr. med. Klaus-Peter Hunfeld

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### GEROLD STANEK PRIZE

The '**Gerold Stanek Prize for Excellence in Research on Tick-Borne Diseases**' is jointly awarded by INSTAND e.V., Düsseldorf, and the ÖGHMP, Vienna, in close cooperation with the ESCMID Study Group for

Tick-Borne Diseases (ESGBOR), all organizations in which Professor Stanek played a vital and lasting role, and is financially endowed with €5,000. The award recognizes the outstanding research achievements of early-career scientists (<40 yrs.) in the field of tick-borne diseases.

[Weitere Informationen](#)

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## INSTAND EQA SCHEMES/PT



**The 2026 EQAS PROGRAM is now live!**

You can find the current EQAS Program in our [RV-Online system](#) and on our [website](#).

[2026 EQAS Program](#)

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### EQAS 821 - Plasma Cell Neoplasia-MRD Immunophenotyping

We now offer the new EQA scheme 821 - **Plasma Cell Neoplasia-MRD Immunophenotyping** - regularly every six months. EQAS 821 requires the quantification (as a percentage of measured leukocytes) of MRD (measurable residual disease) in plasma cell neoplasia.

The dates for 2026 are as follows:

**T3/2026:**

Registration Deadline: December 19, 2025

Sample Shipment: April 14, 2026

Closing Date: April 24, 2026

**T6/2026:**

Registration Deadline: June 26, 2026

Sample Shipment: November 10, 2026

Closing Date: November 13, 2026

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### EQAS 299 - Tumor Markers

Starting in 2026, we will introduce new parameters to our EQA scheme 299. In addition to calcitonin and pro-gastrin-releasing peptide, PIVKAlI, AFP, and AFP-L3 will also be tested. You will also have the option of submitting your GAAD score and GALAD score.

Further details can be found in our [program](#).

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### Additional dates for EQAS 653 - Basophil Activation Test

Due to limited sample availability and the resulting early closure of the ordering option in the past, we have established two additional dates for this EQA scheme, starting next year.

The extra dates will take place in February and August 2026.

Please refer to our [program](#) for the exact dates.

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## New EQA Scheme for Immunohematology

Next year, we will supplement another test in immunohematological diagnostics with the offer of external quality control.

In addition to our proven proficiency testing for blood group diagnostics, we will also be offering a cross-matching testing program starting in March 2026. This will allow the compatibility of different donor erythrocytes for the patient sample to be tested using the procedures established in the laboratory.

We aim to optimize quality assurance in your daily work further and look forward to receiving your registration. We will announce the exact dates on our website and on LinkedIn in due course.

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## INSTAND EQA SCHEME EXPERT CONTRIBUTION

**Prof. Dr. med. Peter B. Lupp, EQAS Expert & INSTAND e.V. Board Member**

gave a presentation on July 30, 2025, at the ADLM Congress in Chicago as part of the session “34102 - Improving Analytical Quality to Meet the Growing Demand for Optimized Diabetes Therapy” on the topic of

**'Quality Assessment of Laboratory Measurements of Plasma Glucose and HbA1c with Regard to Epidemiology and Clinical Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Germany'**

Please find a summary here.

### **Background:**

Over the past ten to fifteen years, the prevalence of diabetes mellitus in Germany has continued to increase, with a shift in the distribution from undiagnosed to diagnosed cases. In light of this significant epidemiological development, the number of people with documented type 2 diabetes stood at 8.7 million in 2022. In addition, there are an estimated two million undiagnosed cases.

In addition, the life expectancy of diabetics is increasing due to improved clinical care for people with diabetes in the German healthcare system. Possible reasons for this include improved treatment regimens, improved preventive screening of at-risk individuals with increased use of anamnestic risk scores, and the introduction of HbA1c for diagnostics in 2010. Quality aspects of laboratory analysis also play a role. This retrospective study was conducted to clarify this issue.

[Continue reading on the INSTAND Website](#)

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## INSTAND ACADEMY

**Online seminar with Prof. Dr. Dr. Haferlach and Dr. Diem on  
INSTAND EQA Schemes 212 and 218**

We cordially invite you to attend the **free online event in German**, “Online Seminar with Prof. Dr. Dr. Haferlach and Dr. Diem on INSTAND EQA schemes 212 and 218,” which will take place **on November 6**.

Here you will have the opportunity to examine and discuss the preparations from the latest EQA schemes 212 and 218 digitally under a microscope, together with the EQAS Expert, Prof. Haferlach, and with the support of Dr. Diem. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to ask the EQAS Experts detailed questions about the EQA scheme.

In the first part of the event, the peripheral blood smears from EQA scheme 212 will be discussed interactively (2:00–2:30 p.m.). In the second part, the specimens (bone marrow aspirates) from EQA scheme 218 will be discussed with you (2:30–3:00 p.m.).

After completing your registration, you will receive your login details for the online seminar approximately one week before the event.

**Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 2-3 pm**

**Medium: Microsoft Teams**

Be part of it and register here for free:

[Register here](#)

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### Online Seminar with Prof. Dr. Uhr on INSTAND EQA Scheme for Cerebrospinal Fluid Diagnostics

Liquor diagnostics is a complex topic, as reflected in the evaluations of EQA schemes. For this reason, lively exchange is essential.

INSTAND would like to invite you to a **free online event in German** to discuss the latest evaluation of the cerebrospinal fluid diagnostics EQA schemes (groups 460, 462, 463, 464, 466, 467, and 468) from August and October 2025 with the EQAS Expert, Prof. Dr. Uhr.

Once you have registered, you will receive your access details for the online seminar approximately one week before the event.

**Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025, 2-3:30 pm**

**Medium: Microsoft Teams**

Please register here for this free seminar:

[Register here](#)

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### New English-Language Seminar on Biostatistics

The INSTAND Academy is pleased to offer you a **one-day training course** in biostatistics in English.

This workshop provides a clear introduction to the basic concepts of biostatistics—without software. Topics such as p-values, confidence intervals, regression coefficients, and statistical significance are explained step by step. The aim is to develop a solid mathematical understanding that will help you apply statistical methods correctly—from t-tests to more complex models. The workshop is aimed at anyone who wants to understand statistics better, whether for laboratory analysis, quality control, or data interpretation.

Continuing education credits will be applied for with the North Rhine Medical Association and the DiW-MTA. As the number of participants is limited, we recommend securing one of the coveted places here as soon as possible.

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**Place:** Duesseldorf, Germany

**Registration Deadline:** December 19, 2025

## INSTAND PUBLICATIONS

Poster Presentation at the ADLM 2025 in Chicago, USA  
'Analysis of the suitability of the whole blood beads model as control material in glucose point-of-care testing for external quality assessment schemes'

An article by INSTAND Employee  
**M. Sc. Alexander Larbig**  
Calibration Laboratory

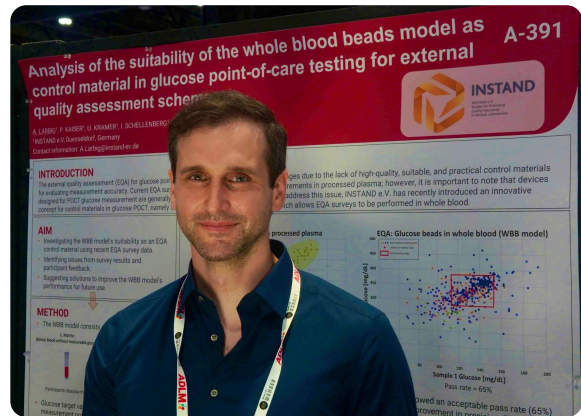
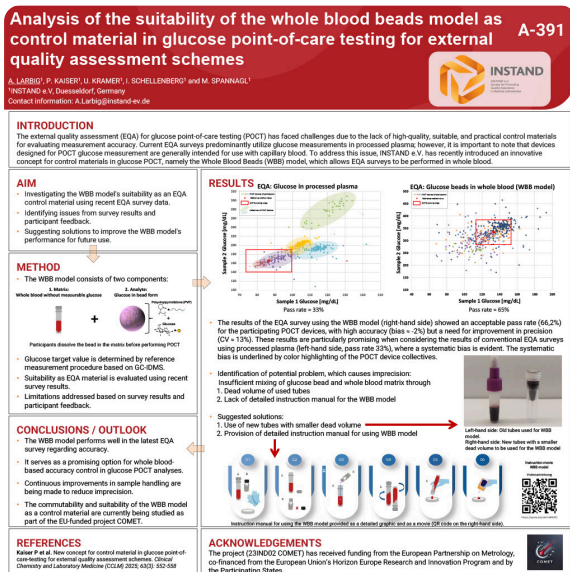
### Introduction

External quality assessment (EQA) for point-of-care testing (POCT) of glucose has faced challenges due to the lack of high-quality, suitable, and practical control materials for evaluating measurement accuracy. Current EQA studies predominantly use glucose measurements in processed plasma. However, it is essential to note that devices designed for POCT glucose measurement are typically intended for use with capillary blood. To solve this problem, INSTAND e.V. recently introduced an innovative concept for control materials in POCT glucose measurement: the Whole Blood Beads (WBB) model, which enables EQA studies in whole blood.

### Background

No suitable control material is currently available for external quality assurance of point-of-care testing (POCT) for glucose. Since both the analyte, glucose, and the matrix, whole blood, are unstable without additives, current proficiency tests are based on glucose measurement in blood plasma. However, POCT devices are generally designed for glucose measurement in capillary blood. INSTAND e.V. has therefore recently presented a new concept for a control material in glucose POCT: the Whole Blood Beads model (WBB).

Continue reading on the [INSTAND Website](#)



ADLM 2025, Chicago, USA  
July 2025

**Comparison of Thrombophilia Assay Results for the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Scientific and Standardization Committee Plasma Standard from Different External Quality Assessment Providers—for the External Quality Assurance**

Jennings, Piet Meijer, Sandya Arunachalam, Richard A. Marlar, John D. Olson, Nicole D. Zantek, Chantal Bon, Elysse Dean, Martine J. Hollestelle, Roland Meley, Elizabeth A. Plumhoff, Christopher Reilly-Stitt, Eric Salazar, Kristi J. Smock, Michael Spannagl, Isobel D. Walker (2025)

[Article](#)

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## THE LANCET Microbe

**Detection of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in external quality assessment programmes: a pandemic preparedness initiative**

Martin Kammel · Christoph Buchta · Stephan W Aberle · Stephanie Bligh · Roman Fried · Andrea Griesmacher · Nicole Mastai · Ingo Schellenberg · Nathalie Weiss · Patricia Kaiser · Anika Zimmermann · Martin Obermeier

[Article](#)

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### FUTURE EVENTS



**EQALM**  
Oktober 15-17, 2025  
Leiden, Netherlands

You can find the latest information [here](#).



**DKLM**  
Oktober 23-24, 2025  
Leipzig, Germany

Current information can be found [here](#).



**EQAS Expert-Workshop + Annual Assembly**  
November 28, 2025  
Düsseldorf, Germany

Read more [here](#).

[All Events](#)



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