



To: National Society Presidents and
National Representatives, Members of the EFCC

Date: October, 19, 2009

Dear colleague,

SPIDIA (www.spidia.eu) is a 4-years project (2008-2012), having a total budget of 13 million Euros and funded by the European Union FP7 programme to the value of 9 million Euros, which brings together a consortium of 17 leading academic institutions, International organisations, Life Sciences and Diagnostic Companies.

The project aims to tackle the standardisation and improvement of pre-analytical procedures for current and future in-vitro diagnostics. The proposed research and standardisation activities cover all steps from creation of evidence-based guidelines to creation of new technologies and tools for the pre-analytical phase to testing and optimisation of these tools suitable for the development of novel assays and biomarkers. The project is coordinated by QIAGEN GmbH.

In order to evaluate the current standardisation of the pre-analytical phase, at European level, for DNA/RNA obtained from blood/plasma, we have planned 3 ring trials:

- 1) SPIDIA-DNA- evaluation of DNA quality/quantity from WHOLE BLOOD sample
- 2) SPIDIA-DNAplas - evaluation of DNA quality/quantity from WHOLE BLOOD sample plus the Evaluation of DNA quality/quantity/integrity from PLASMA sample
- 3) SPIDIA-RNA - evaluation of RNA quality/quantity/stability from WHOLE BLOOD sample

The Following table summarizes the structure and the aims of these three ring Trials.

TABLE. Summary of the three SPIDIA Ring Trials

Ring Trial Name	What do you receive?	What do you extract?	What does SPIDIA evaluate?
SPIDIA - DNA	Whole blood sample	Genomic DNA	Quality Quantity
SPIDIA - DNaplas	Whole blood sample	Genomic DNA	Quality Quantity
	Plasma sample	Cell-free DNA	Quantity Integrity
SPIDIA - RNA	Whole blood sample	RNA	Quality Quantity Stability

The Coordinator would like to invite you to disseminate this information to the members of your Society, using the procedures you consider appropriate, in order to allow the collection of applications that has a European dimension.

Laboratories that are interested to learn more and eventually to join to this initiative, can find all the requested information and the application form at the web site: www.efcclm.eu. Details are: go to the www.efcclm.eu web site, click on "Scientific Activities" and then on "SPIDIA" (upper corner on the right).

Applications will be collected until February 5th, 2010.

Participation is free!

NB: Some restrictions to applicants are applied, based on the geographical distribution of the laboratories and the maximum number of applications that can be accepted.

Best regards,

Uwe Oelmüller
Coordinator of the SPIDIA Project

Mario Pazzagli
Leader of the WP1.2: Evidence-based Quality Guidelines for the pre-analytical phase of Blood Samples