

NIH/NIST Health Assessment Measurements Quality Assurance Program (HAMQAP)
Participant Feedback Survey

Thank you for agreeing to participate in NIST's HAMQAP feedback survey. Your feedback is important and will provide NIST and the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (co-funders of HAMQAP) with information that will help improve future QAP exercises. Your candid responses are appreciated - all responses are anonymous. Responses will be summarized and presented in a report to HAMQAP directors; no one response will be attributed to any one person. This survey should take you no more than 20 minutes to complete. Contact Adam Kuszak at adam.kuszak@nih.gov or (301) 496-1795 with any questions or concerns.



OMB# 0925-0648. Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. **An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.** Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0648). Do not return the completed form to this address.

NIH/NIST Health Assessment Measurements Quality Assurance Program (HAMQAP)
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Participant characterization

1. How do you classify your company or organization?

- Academic or research facility
- Consumer product manufacturer
- Instrument or test kit manufacturer
- Third-party testing laboratory or contract research organization
- Government agency
- Other (please specify)

2. What is your role in your organization/company?

- Senior manager (executive level)
- Laboratory or quality manager
- Bench scientist/analyst
- Administrator
- Other (please specify)

3. Please describe the role/position of the person(s) choosing studies for your laboratory's participation in NIST QAPs. *Select all that apply.*

- Senior manager (executive level)
- Laboratory or quality manager
- Bench scientist/analyst
- Administrator
- Other (please specify)

4. In what country is the laboratory located where your organization has received HAMQAP samples?

▼

5. Which of the following analyte groups or measurement categories are of interest to your laboratory? *Select all that apply.*

- Nutritional elements (e.g., Ca, Na, K)
- Toxic elements (e.g., As, Cd, Hg, Pb)
- Water-soluble vitamins (e.g., vitamins B and C)
- Fat-soluble vitamins (e.g., vitamins A, D, E, and K)
- Fatty acids (e.g., DHA, EPA)
- Botanical marker compounds (e.g., gingerols, catechins, phenolic compounds)
- Contaminants (e.g., pesticides, mycotoxins)
- Proximates (e.g., fat, protein, carbohydrate)
- Authenticity and/or identity assessment (e.g., plant species identification)
- Other (please specify)

6. What types of samples are routinely analyzed by your laboratory? *Select all that apply.*

- Non-botanical dietary supplements
- Botanical dietary supplements
- Foods (fortified or non-fortified)
- Other natural products
- Blood
- Serum/plasma
- Urine
- Human milk
- Other (please specify)

7. What analytical approaches does your laboratory utilize for quality control and quality assurance? *Select all that apply.*

- Use of in-house prepared reference standards (pure compounds for calibration)
- Use of commercial reference standards (pure compounds for calibration)
- Use of in-house prepared calibration solutions
- Use of commercial calibration solutions
- Use of in-house matrix reference materials or QC materials
- Use of commercial matrix reference materials or QC materials
- Use of Certified Reference Materials (CRMs)

8. How do you distinguish between quality assurance and proficiency testing?

9. How do you use quality assurance or proficiency testing in your organization?

10. Has your laboratory participated in proficiency testing or quality assurance programs other than NIST-coordinated programs for measurements of dietary constituents or contaminants?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify

11. Is participation in quality assurance exercises (in general) something that you find to be valuable to your work?

Yes

No

Please explain

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Participant experience with the NIST QAPs

12. Currently, HAMQAP is designed to offer studies for both dietary intake and human metabolism matrices. Would your laboratory like to see the program split into separate, more focused programs?

- Yes
 No
 No opinion

13. How many HAMQAP exercises have you participated in?

- More than one
 Only one (skip to Question #15)

14. If you have participated in more than one HAMQAP exercise, please tell us more about your different experiences. For example: What was the reason for participating in multiple exercises and how would you compare them? What was the best part of each exercise for you/your laboratory? *[IF YOU ONLY PARTICIPATED IN ONE EXERCISE GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION]*

15. Would you participate in another HAMQAP? Why or why not?

16. To the best of your knowledge, in which of the following NIST HAMQAP exercises has your laboratory participated? *Select all that apply.*

- HAMQAP Exercise 1 (Fall 2017)
 HAMQAP Exercise 2 (Spring 2018)
 HAMQAP Exercise 3 (Fall 2018)
 HAMQAP Exercise 4 (Spring 2019)
 HAMQAP Exercise 5 (Fall 2019)
 HAMQAP Exercise 6 (Spring 2020)
 HAMQAP Exercise 7 (Spring 2021)

17. Prior to participating in HAMQAP, did your laboratory participate in any of the following past NIST-coordinated Quality Assurance Programs? *Select all that apply.*

- Micronutrient Measurements Quality Assurance Program (MMQAP)
- Dietary Supplements Laboratory Quality Assurance Program (DSQAP)
- Vitamin D Metabolites Quality Assurance Program (VitDQAP)
- Fatty Acids in Human Serum Quality Assurance Program (FAQAP)
- No participation prior to HAMQAP

18. How does your laboratory find out about upcoming HAMQAPs? *Select all that apply.*

- Emails from NIST
- Information on the HAMQAP website
- Word-of-mouth information from colleagues who have participated previously
- Information shared at a professional conference
- Other (please specify)

19. Would any of the following discourage you from participating in a future HAMQAP exercise? *Select all that apply.*

- Date of the exercise
- Length of the exercise
- NIST participation requirements
- Amount or type of communications
- Cancellation of prior HAMQAP exercises
- Past experience with HAMQAP exercises
- Other

Please explain

20. In each HAMQAP exercise a percentage of laboratories receive samples but do not return results. Why might your laboratory be unable to report results for samples requested? *Select all that apply.*

- Atypical analyte (e.g., non-interest in a certain folate vitamer or fatty acid form)
- Atypical matrix (e.g., non-interest in botanical extracts or clinical samples)
- Limited resources (time, staff, equipment)
- Difficult sample preparation
- Instrumentation difficulty
- Poor control results
- High measurement variability
- Analyte not detected
- Not applicable - our lab always returns results for all requested matrices/analytes
- Other (please specify)

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Participant experience with the NIST QAPs

Please provide feedback on the HAMQAP emails you have received:

21. Are HAMQAP emails clearly written and easily understood?

- Yes
- No
- I never received HAMQAP emails

22. Do HAMQAP emails provide valuable information for your laboratory?

- Yes
- No
- I never received HAMQAP emails

23. HAMQAP emails are sent:

- Too often
- Not often enough
- I am happy with the frequency of emails
- I never received HAMQAP emails

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Participant experience with the NIST QAPs

Please provide feedback on the HAMQAP website:

24. Is it easy to sign up for a HAMQAP exercise?

- Yes
- No
- I never used the HAMQAP website

25. Is it easy to access the HAMQAP exercise data from the HAMQAP website?

- Yes
- No
- I never used the HAMQAP website

26. Is it easy to report your data to NIST through the HAMQAP website?

- Yes
- No
- I never used the HAMQAP website

27. Is there anything else that you would like to see included on the website?

28. Are there any suggestions that you have for changing the way that information is presented on the site?

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Participant experience with the NIST QAPs

NIST provides final exercise reports that include results for your laboratory, results aggregated for all participating laboratories, and a certificate of completion. Please provide feedback on the HAMQAP final exercise reports that you have received:

29. Are the HAMQAP final exercise reports clearly written and easily understood?

- Yes
- No
- I never received HAMQAP exercise reports

30. Do HAMQAP final exercise reports provide valuable information for your laboratory?

- Yes
- No
- I never received HAMQAP exercise reports

31. How do you use the information provided in the final exercise reports?

32. Would it be valuable to receive preliminary reports with your data and a participation certificate earlier in the process?

- Yes
- No

Please explain

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Participant needs and expectations

33. What benefits does participation in HAMQAP offer your laboratory? *Select all that apply.*

- Fulfills accreditation requirement
- Development/validation of new methods
- Evaluation of existing methods, samples, or analysts
- Understanding matrix/analyte challenges
- Acquisition of NIST control materials
- Demonstration of laboratory proficiency to customers
- Other (please specify)

34. Which of the potential benefits of HAMQAP participation that you selected in Question #33 above are the strongest reasons for your participation? *Select only two benefits.*

- Fulfills accreditation requirement
- Development/validation of new methods
- Evaluation of existing methods, samples, or analysts
- Understanding matrix/analyte challenges
- Acquisition of NIST control materials
- Demonstration of laboratory proficiency to customers
- Other (please specify)

35. Is your laboratory likely to participate in a HAMQAP study if it does *not* already have an established method for the analytes?

- Yes
- No

36. Do you have analytical needs that are currently underserved or unmet? These needs do not have to be tied directly to HAMQAP but can include more general needs or challenges facing the laboratory. *Select all that apply.*

- Pure reference standards (e.g., calibration solutions)
- Matrix reference materials (e.g., novel matrices)
- Method development/assessment (e.g., comparison of different methods)
- Method guidance/education (e.g., extent of information in QAP report technical recommendations)
- Variety of QAP study designs (e.g., need for unique analytes)
- Performance testing (e.g., demonstration of measurement correctness against certified values)
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

37. For all of the analytical needs selected in Q36, please describe your organization's specific needs in the space provided after each analytical need below.

Pure reference standards:

Matrix reference materials:

Method development/assessment:

Method guidance/education:

Variety of QAP study designs:

Performance testing:

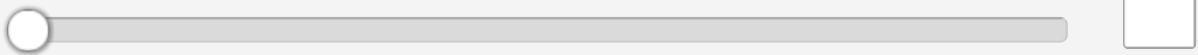
Other:

38. On a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest ranking and 10 the highest), how valuable is participation in quality assurance exercises (in general) to your work?

1 10

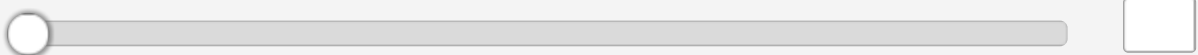
39. On a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest ranking and 10 the highest), how well have NIST's HAMQAP exercises met your laboratory's needs?

1 10



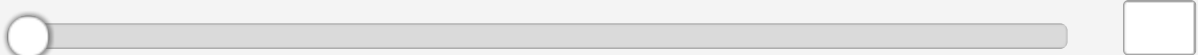
40. On a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest ranking and 10 the highest), how likely are you to encourage others to participate in a HAMQAP exercise?

1 10



41. On a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest ranking and 10 the highest), how likely are you to participate in another HAMQAP exercise?

1 10



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Participant needs and expectations

Each HAMQAP exercise involves distinct and time-limited program phases. Please consider each exercise phase listed below and the adequacy of the time allotted to it.

42. How adequate is the timing for the call for participants (typically 4 weeks)?

- Substantially more time needed
- More time needed
- Current time is adequate
- Less time needed
- Substantially less time needed

43. How adequate is the timing for the sample distribution (typically 10-12 weeks)?

- Substantially more time needed
- More time needed
- Current time is adequate
- Less time needed
- Substantially less time needed

44. How adequate is the timing for analysis (typically 6-weeks)?

- Substantially more time needed
- More time needed
- Current time is adequate
- Less time needed
- Substantially less time needed

45. How adequate is the timing for the preliminary results (typically 4-6 weeks)?

- Substantially more time needed
- More time needed
- Current time is adequate
- Less time needed
- Substantially less time needed

46. How adequate is the timing for the final report (typically 6 months)?

- Substantially more time needed
- More time needed
- Current time is adequate
- Less time needed
- Substantially less time needed

47. If you were involved in the planning of the HAMQAP, how would you change the current structure or the content focus?

48. HAMQAP participation is currently free of charge, only requiring shipping costs for material distribution. Would your organization still participate if a nominal fee were charged?

- Yes
- No

49. How much would your organization be willing to pay for participation in a HAMQAP exercise?

- Up to \$100
- \$101 - \$250
- \$251 - \$500
- \$501 - \$750
- \$751 - \$1000
- \$1001 - \$1500
- Don't know

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Thank you for completing our survey. Your feedback will help us improve the HAMQAP exercises.