



# The Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks Newsletter

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*The Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) is a system of interconnected federal laboratory networks that can quickly respond to high-consequence incidents and give decision makers timely, credible, and interpretable data.*

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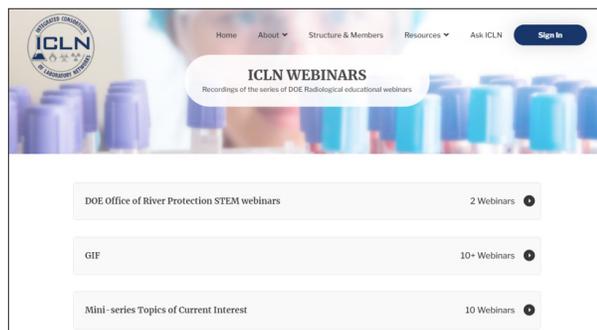
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## The ICLN Website – Radiological Webinars Offered

The ICLN ([www.icln.org](http://www.icln.org)) website offers a Resources section that consists of Subgroups, Webinars and Training. In the Webinar tab, there are 76 educational, radiologically-focused webinars sponsored by the Department of Energy. The webinars are separated into 7 series that include:

- actinide chemistry;
- environmental radiochemistry and bioassay;
- nuclear fuel cycle;
- nuclear forensics;
- environmental radiochemistry;
- young investigators; and
- radiopharmaceuticals.



Other webinars include: special topics of current interest, Gen IV International Forum (GIF), and DOE Office of River Protection STEM. Check out these free, informative webinars!

## The Mission of the ICLN COVID-19 Lessons-Learned Workgroup

The ICLN COVID-19 Lessons-Learned Workgroup was formed in October of 2020 to identify information, personnel, materiel, and other gaps/lessons-learned that inhibited response during the COVID-19 pandemic and, by extension, may inhibit response to future large scale incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological and/or nuclear (CBRN) analytes. Participants in the ICLN COVID-19 Lessons-Learned Workgroup submitted, reviewed, summarized and prioritized the gaps/lessons-learned for attention in response and preparedness related efforts. The purpose of the workgroup is to review the high-priority gaps/lessons learned, propose solutions, and outline recommendations in a summary document for effective resolution of priority gaps.

### Gaps and lessons learned were identified in the following areas:

- Shortages: Laboratory Supplies and Verification of Quality Goods/Counterfeit Supplies;
- Data and Communication: Integrated System and Format to Report Data and Communicate Results and Pandemic-Related Communication Among Networks;
- Certifications/Authorizations: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certifications/Regulatory Compliance;
- Emergency Use Authorizations; and
- Staff Considerations: Testing, Contact Tracing, and Travel.

Once the “Recommendations document” was finalized, the ICLN COVID-19 Workgroup began meeting bimonthly to address the identified gaps. A workgroup survey identified the highest priority items to address.

The top three responses that were considered “high priority” include the following in ranked order:

- 1) Ensuring strategic plans incorporate recommendations to stockpile essential lab supplies related to CBRN (and novel disease) analysis. Develop a list of laboratory items that were in short supply during the pandemic, so they can be stockpiled in the future.

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**ICLN COVID-19 Lessons-Learned Workgroup** *continued from page 1*

- 2) Identify supplies which have limited shelf life (e.g., reagents, test kits, standards, etc.) and examine the potential for extending the shelf life. Have procedures in place to test and assess in-hand reagents for potential useful life extension.
- 3) Survey labs for essential items which have long shelf lives and identify means to cache such items in advance of a major demand surge.

At a recent Workgroup meeting, each participating ICLN network/agency was tasked to create a list of the top five (5) items which were in short supply during the pandemic. Information requested included:

- List item name, manufacturer(s), specifications of the item/product.
- Example of the lead time it took to get this item restocked during the pandemic.



## ICLN Methods Subgroup Updates

The purpose of the ICLN Methods Subgroup is to consider individual laboratory network needs, to coordinate development, validation and deployment of assays between networks and agencies, and to identify available and emerging analytical methods.

The Methods Subgroup is the primary caretaker of the Methods Registry, a database which documents methods available through the ICLN networks to analyze CBRN agents of concern. The Subgroup meets monthly to discuss various topics that include: updating the Methods Registry; assessing gaps in available methods; improving current methods; review of ICLN public documents created by the Methods Subgroup; and ongoing outreach to external partners to explore new detection technologies for advancing resources and preparedness.

The Methods Subgroup regularly participates in stakeholder outreach, such as communication with the DHS Probabilistic Analysis for National Threats, Hazards, and Risks (PANTHR) Program to obtain the most current CBRN Risk Assessment. After a thorough review of the hazard list, the Subgroup compiled a list of suggestions for improvements for PANTHR to consider.

The ICLN Methods Subgroup invites guest speakers to monthly meetings to stay current on method development and/or to address availability of technical analytical tools or resources. Speakers included:

1. ThermoFisher Scientific/Applied Biosystems: Retirement of the 7500 Fast Dx PCR platform;
2. AdvaMedDx: Goals to promote innovation and expand access to quality testing;
3. Meso Scale Diagnostics: Current platforms and technology and the retirement of the PR2 Model 1800 immunoassay platform; and
4. Defense Biological Product Assurance Office: Provides DoD and its partners with a comprehensive collection of biological products that are thoroughly characterized, of the highest quality, adaptable and traceable from source to application.

Upcoming presentations include:

- Civil Support Team (CST) high threat testing in a mobile laboratory;
- Bio-surveillance;
- AOAC Stakeholder Program on Agent Detection Assays (SPADA);
- Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technology;
- Portable High-Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System (EPA PHILIS); and
- Method development for fentanyl and analogs.

For questions about the Subgroup, please contact [ICLN@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:ICLN@hq.dhs.gov).

The Methods Subgroup has recently reviewed and updated several public-facing documents, available in the ICLN website (<https://www.icln.org/subgroups.cfm#methods>), that include:

1. Guidelines for Comparison of Validation Levels Between Networks
2. Sample Chain of Custody Form
3. Sample Collection and Handling Guidelines