4 November 2001
Session 1, 8:30 a.m.
Session 2, 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Annual Session on Quality Assurance and Quality Control: A Forum for QA Chemists: QC and QA in the Real World

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Objectives: This workshop, held as part of the agenda of the 47th Conference on Bioassay, Analytical and Environmental Radiochemistry (BAER) offers you a time to present lessons learned in your lab, share practical tips, brainstorm ideas for improving quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA), and learn about the major concerns of the QA/QC community in radiochemistry and related fields.

The workshop will offer two sessions, with presentations grouped by topic or area of interest. You are invited and encouraged to take part in this informal, maybe even fun, workshop, either by attending or by presenting information. In addition, if there are more ideas and papers than we can include in this workshop, we may be able to include an additional poster session on similar QC/QA ideas and issues.

QA/QC in the Real World: As the title suggests, this workshop is intended for the chemists, technicians, supervisors, and others who actually do the analytical work in the laboratory, or who work directly with data produced by the analytical labs. While lab directors, managers, statisticians, math whizzes, and all others interested are encouraged to attend and participate in the workshop, we especially want to hear from those of you, "in the trenches" every day.

What have you learned that will help others improve their data quality?
What mistakes have you made, and how did you detect and correct them (and prevent them from happening again?)
How does your lab handle validation of a new method?
How good is good enough data?
Do you have a spreadsheet or other software that helps you crunch the numbers better and faster?

We want this session to reflect quality control and quality assurance in the real world!

Agenda Ideas:

- Updates on Issues
  - What's really going on with various programs, implementation projects, PE programs, etc, and how will your laboratory or company be affected?

- Method Validation (papers, ideas, overheads, provocative ideas)
  - When do you need to do it?
  - How good is good enough?
  - Do you need to hire a statistician?
  - How many replicates, duplicates, spikes, etc?
  - What statistical tests do you do?
  - Intralab vs. interlaboratory validation studies.
  - How can you tell when you are done and the method is acceptable?

- Data Evaluation (verification, ideas, overheads, provocative ideas)
  - Do you use data evaluation flags?
  - What do you look for in data verification besides contract compliance?
  - Do you use check lists, and can you share those?
  - How do you use batch QC in the verification process?
  - What does PE data tell you about the batch?
  - When do you reject data and reanalyze the sample?
  - If SOWs drive verification, do poorly written SOW lead to poor data?
  - If you do poorly on external and internal PE samples, do you continue to report client data?

- Uncertainty calculations, processes, questions, and answers.

- Bits and Pieces, Words to the Wise, and Other Stuff (overheads, cartoons, slides, provocative ideas, weird solutions, and other "outside the box" ideas)

This is the place to come even if you have a simple improvement you have made in your lab. This session promises to be fun and beneficial, with time allowed for questions, arguments, and alternative ideas.