



Summary of the Fifth Annual Fall National Molecular Microbiology

Diagnostics Users Group (NMG)

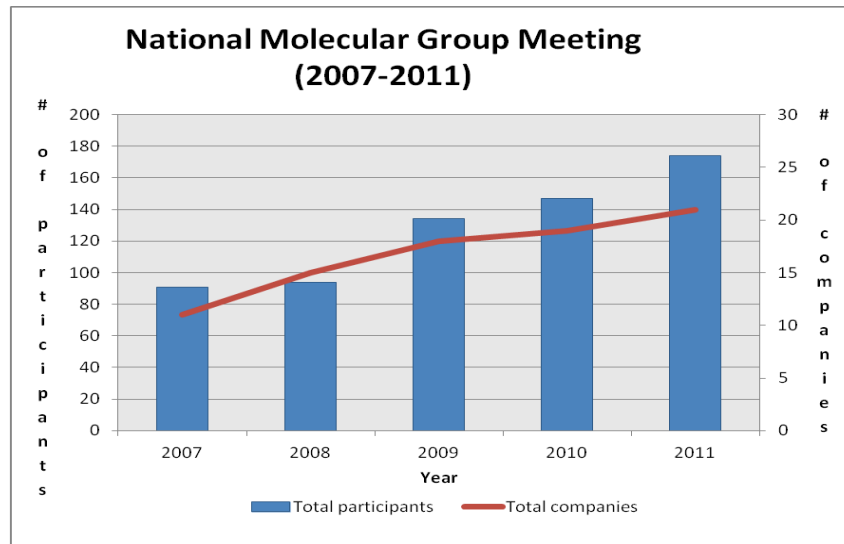
October 17-18, 2011, Toronto, ON

Background: The National Molecular Microbiology Diagnostics Users Group (NMG) is a newly established working group that includes approximately 120 laboratorians using molecular methods for clinical microbiology diagnostics. Members are from hospital, private and public health laboratories from across Canada.

Annual Fall Meetings have taken place to discuss proficiency activities from throughout the year, current molecular testing issues, and to obtain updates on new technologies, assays, trouble-shooting and instrumentations through industry sponsored workshops.

Registrants: A total of 120 laboratory and 54 industry participants from across Canada attended the 2011 NMG. The graph below indicates the number of participants and the number of companies attending the conference (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of Participants (2007-2011).

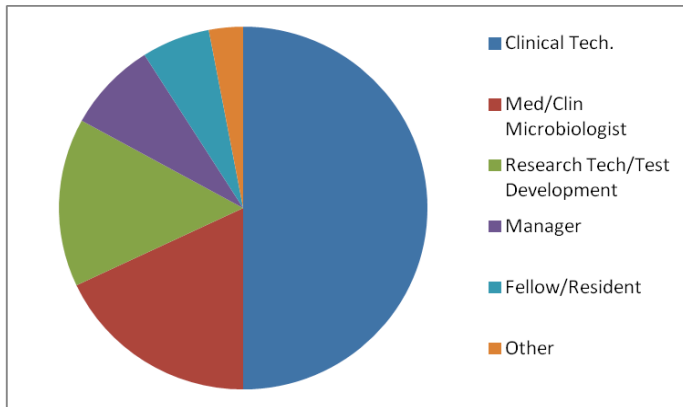


The participants who attended came from various aspects of the clinical microbiology laboratory. The breakdown for the participants based on their job title is shown in figure 2. The largest group attending the conference were clinical technologists, including MLTs, Senior Technologists and Technical specialists. Medical/Clinical microbiologists followed. There were also a number of research technologists, some indicating specifically they performed test development. A significant number of trainees and managers were also present.

A total of 26 attendees came from out of the province of Ontario (BC 4, AB 4, SK 1, MB 6, QC 7, NB 2, NS 1 and NF 1).



Figure 2. Breakdown of participants by job title.



Industry Participation:

Twenty-one companies contributed to the conference as exhibitors (17), workshop presentations (7), and/or sponsors (6) for meals and coffee breaks. CACMID was a generous sponsor of the travel grants and educational components of the conference. Topics for the one hour workshops ranged from updates on new technologies for pathogen identification, quality control, multiplex testing for respiratory viruses, molecular testing for *C. Difficile*, .

Exhibitor tables were placed in rooms across from the theatre where coffee breaks were held. This allowed numerous opportunities for interaction between participants and industry. Industry participants were free to attend all workshops and presentations held the first day and the morning of the second day.

Sponsorship was indicated with signage at the event (beside the meals and at the registration desk) and with a handout inserted into the registration package of all participants. Money from workshops, sponsorship and exhibition was used to offset costs of the meeting and to supply travel grants to 22 participants travelling from out of province, who would otherwise have not been able to attend.

Travel Grants:

Travel grants were made available to participants travelling out of province. Participants applied for travel grants prior to the meeting. Twenty-two were approved to cover costs of flight and accommodation. The desire is that we will be able to generate enough income next year to hand out increased number of travel grants.

Annual General Meeting:

The annual general meeting took place on Tuesday October 18th, 2011. A new board was elected including a new Vice President and Councillors.



Figure 3. Participation of companies as Exhibitors, Workshops, and/or Sponsorship

Sponsorship	Workshop	Exhibitor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CACMID • Qiagen Inc. • Abbott Molecular • Zepetometrix • Luminex Corp. • Roche Diagnostics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated DNA Technologies • Qiagen Inc. • Alere Inc. • altona Diagnostics Canada • Abbott Molecular • Luminex Corp. • BioNuclear Diagnostics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbott Molecular • bioMerieux Canada Inc • BioNuclear Diagnostics • Cedarlane Laboratories • D-Mark Biosciences • Eppendorf Canada • Gen-Probe • Integrated DNA Technologies • Inter Medico • Inverness Medical Canada • Luminex Corp. • Phoenix AirMid Biomedical Corporation • Promega Corp. • Qiagen Inc. • Roche Diagnostics • Somagen Diagnostics • Thermo Fisher Scientific • ZeptoMetrix Corp.

Conference Evaluation:

Results from a conference evaluation indicated that the majority of participants were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the meeting, as well as would attend upcoming conferences in future years. The facilities of the workshops and presentations (theatre) and location (downtown Toronto, ON) were well liked, however, many felt the exhibitor and coffee break area was too small. Also that the ceilings were too low and that it was noisy. Overall, the talks were well received and little changes were suggested.

Some minor issues identified included:

- coffee was late and didn't taste very good
- the space was tight for exhibits and coffee breaks

The above issues were discussed at the core group meeting following the conference and will be addressed in next years' conference to be held **October 22-23, 2012 in Toronto, ON.**