



Summary of the Fifth Annual Fall National Molecular Microbiology

Diagnostics Users Group (NMG)

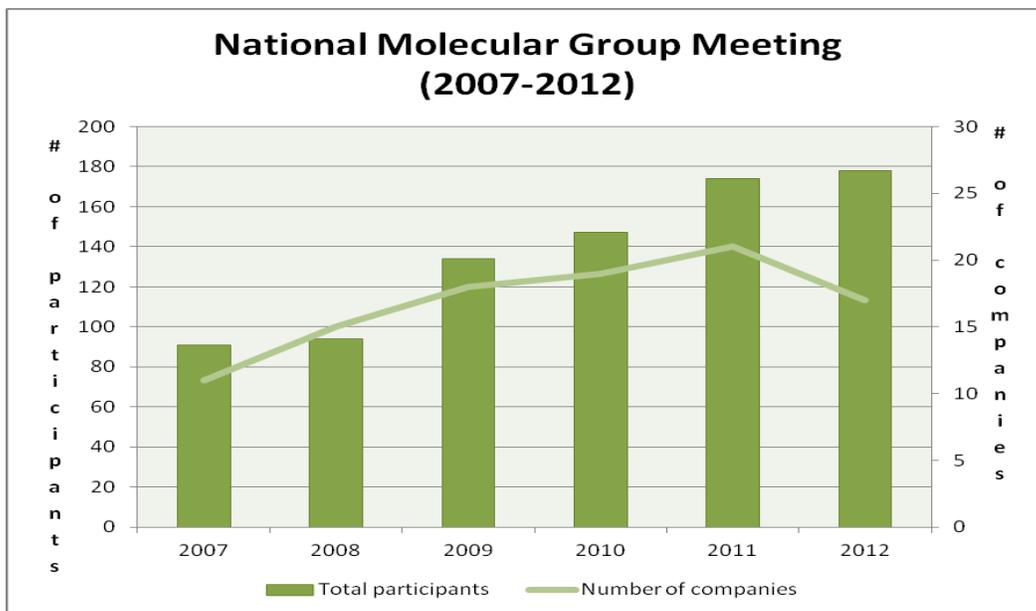
October 22-23, 2012, Toronto, ON

Background: The National Molecular Microbiology Diagnostics Users Group (NMG) is a working group that includes approximately 230 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 instrumentation through industry sponsored workshops.

Registrants: A total of 130 laboratory and 48 industry participants from across Canada attended the 2012 NMG. The graph below indicates the number of participants and the number of companies attending the conference (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Number of Participants (2007-2012).

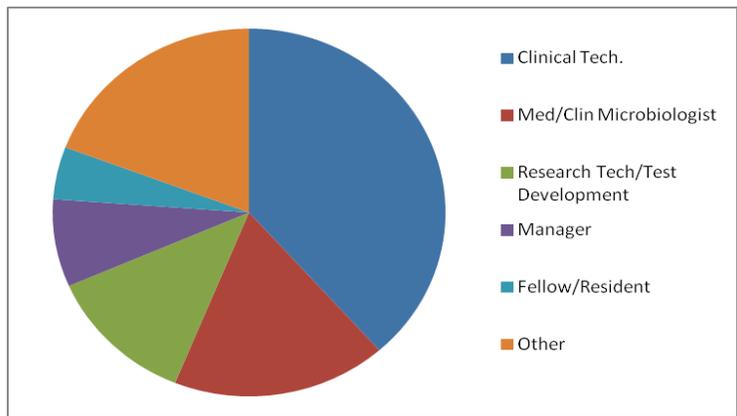


The participants who attended came from various aspects of the clinical microbiology laboratory. The breakdown for the participants based on their job title is shown in figure 2. The largest group attending the conference were clinical technologists, including MLTs, Senior Technologists and Technical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

development. A significant number of trainees and managers were also present. The “other” category included quality standard specialists and test development from industry.

A total of 26 attendees came from out of the province of Ontario (BC 4, AB 5, SK 3, MB 5, QC 5, NB 2, NS 1 and NF 1).

Figure 2. Breakdown of participants by job title.



Industry Participation:

Seventeen companies contributed to the conference as exhibitors (15), workshop presentations (7), and/or sponsors (4) for meals and coffee breaks. Topics for workshops ranged from updates on new technologies and instrumentation, LEANing the molecular laboratory, assay design, multiplex testing for gastrointestinal parasites, direct molecular testing for respiratory pathogens and current state of HCV molecular diagnostics.

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

Sponsorship	Workshop	Exhibitor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • altona Diagnostics Canada • Cedarlane Laboratories • Luminex Corporation • Zeptomatrix Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbott Molecular • Alere Canada • altona Diagnostics Canada • BioNuclear Diagnostics • Luminex Corp. • Phoenix AirMid Biomedical Corporation • Promega Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbott Molecular • Alere Canada • Bio Nuclear Diagnostics • Cedarlane Laboratories • D-Mark Biosciences • Eppendorf Canada • Hologic/Gen-Probe • Integrated DNA Technologies • Inter Medico • Luminex Corporation • Phoenix AirMid Biomedical Corporation • Promega Corporation • Qiagen • Somagen Diagnostics • Zeptomatrix Corporation

Exhibitor tables were placed in the lobby with breakfast and coffee breaks. 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-four 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, in particular to those travelling from outside the greater Toronto area, requiring overnight accomodation.

Annual General Meeting:

The annual general meeting took place on Tuesday October 23, 2012. The minutes are posted on the NMG website (nmgroup.ca).

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, some felt the exhibitor and coffee break area was tight. Others found it “cosy”. Overall, the talks were well received, in particular, the quality and trouble-shooting session. Little changes were suggested (see below).

Some minor issues identified included:

- coffee was late and didn't taste very good
- the space was tight for exhibits and coffee breaks
- workshops were interested, some a little too much marketing

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, 2013 at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, ON.**