

To the participants of the  
1<sup>st</sup> INSTAND-Proficiency Test in  
Bacterial Genome Detection (PCR / NAT)  
(INSTAND Proficiency Test Numbers 431 to 435)

**Dear Participant, dear Colleague,**

Please find enclosed a brief analysis report of the recent proficiency test panel "Bacterial Genome Detection (PCR / NAT)". It summarizes some benchmarks and the overall assessment of results reported by all of the the participating laboratories.

The accuracy of your individual results is indicated on your personal certificate issued by INSTAND e.V. (attached to this letter).

This highly desired program for external validation was activated by the *German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology* (DGHM) and is now organized by INSTAND e.V., Düsseldorf, Germany. As you can learn from "[www.instand-ev.de](http://www.instand-ev.de)", this new segment of their huge proficiency testing program is now open for diagnostic laboratories worldwide. We are aiming at two validation rounds per year (April / November) and a permanently expanding coverage of relevant bacterial pathogens. Any general or specific comments on sample composition or suggestions on additional bacterial, fungal, or parasitic organisms which should be covered, are highly appreciated.

Please do not feel irritated by some strong-positive samples among the present set. To make participants and ourselves familiar with the concept and the suitability of the proprietary sample matrix, "passing" should be easy in the initial rounds of proficiency testing. But as the program continues, it is our challenge (and duty) to rise at least some of the hurdles with every round of external validation.

Further information about this proficiency test panel "Bacterial Genome Detection (PCR / NAT)" can be downloaded as pdf-files at "[www.udo-reischl.de](http://www.udo-reischl.de)", subsection "INSTAND Ringversuche (PCR / NAT)". Although the preferred language of these documents is German, we are aiming to provide at least some key documents and the tables in a bilingual style.

Hopefully you found this kind of external validation benefitting and will join future rounds of our QC program.

With best personal regards,

Dr. Udo Reischl