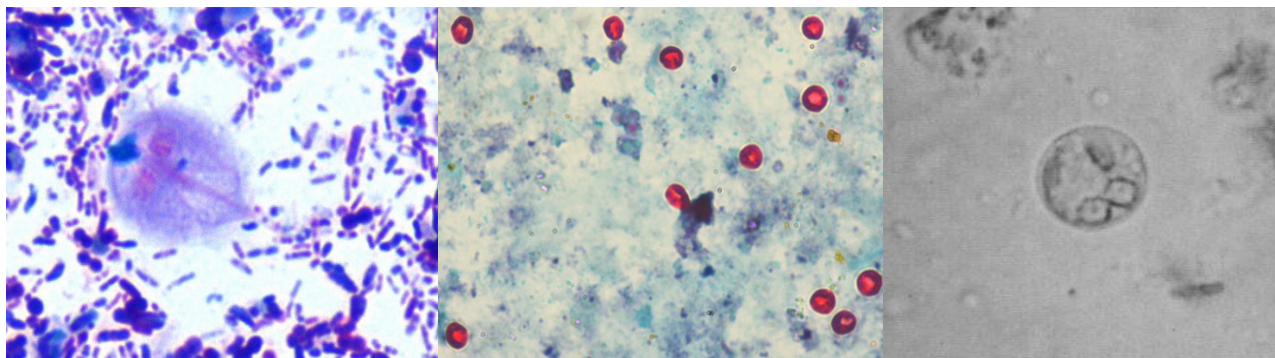


UK NEQAS for Parasitology, Basement 4, The Halo, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AZ
TEL: +44 (0) 203 908 1371

Scheme for the Molecular Detection of Faecal parasites

The laboratory diagnosis of gastrointestinal parasites has traditionally been performed by microscopy. However, such procedures are time consuming and require highly specialized training plus experience. Antigen detection ELISAs can process large number of samples; however, their sensitivity can vary between various kits used. The emergence of molecular methodologies, especially RT-Multiplex PCR has enabled the detection of multiple faecal pathogens and mitigates the subjective nature of identifying parasites by morphology. Nucleic acid testing (NAT) has the potential to improve sensitivity and specificity rates and provide rapid and accurate diagnosis.

UK NEQAS Parasitology is in the process of establishing an EQA for molecular detection of faecal pathogens especially *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *E.histolytica* in the first instance.



Information regarding this scheme is as follows:

- Launch of first pilot expected to be in January 2020.
- Proposed live distributions in 2020-21 with two distributions per year. Each distribution will contain 2 specimens to be tested for faecal parasites.
- Different parasite densities will be used. *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *E.histolytica* and negatives will be included
- Specimens supplied as lyophilised (freeze-dried) faecal samples.
- Country specific performance will be available where there are more than 10 participants in a country.
- There will a three week period for participants reporting results. The intended results will appear on our web site www.ukneqasmicro.org.uk the day after the closing date and reports will normally be issued within 2 weeks.

For further information, please contact the scheme manager at the above address or alternatively Tel: 020 3908 1371, E-mail: parasite@ukneqas.org.uk