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05 November 2015

Request for Comments on UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMIs) National User Manual Template

Response from the Institute of Biomedical Science

The Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) is the UK professional body for biomedical science. It represents approximately 20,000 members employed mainly in NHS laboratories, NHS Blood and Transplant, Public Health services, private laboratories, research, industry and higher education. In its capacity as a standard setting organisation, and also an HCPC approved education provider, the Institute welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the UK SMI National User Manual Template.

The IBMS broadly supports the concept of the UK SMI National User Manual Template and believes it would be particularly useful for laboratories when reviewing user manuals for ISO 15189 compliance. To this end it is suggested that where appropriate the corresponding ISO standard is quoted under each heading. In addition to this it is recommended that the document needs to make clear that it is a recommendation template that laboratories can choose to use and not a mandate.

The comments above have been compiled from those made by the members of the IBMS' Specialist Advisory Panel for Medical Microbiology and the Specialist Advisory Panel for Virology.