



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ISO 15189 Medical Laboratory Accreditation Now Offered By A2LA

FREDERICK, MD. (May 28, 2007) - The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce it is adding medical laboratories to its accreditation offerings.

A2LA is accepting applications for accreditation to ISO 15189 beginning June 1, 2007.

“We are excited to begin offering accreditation services to medical laboratories,” said Peter Unger, A2LA president. “We see strong demand for an internationally recognized accreditation program in the medical laboratory industry. We offer a distinct approach to laboratory accreditation that, to date, has not been established for the medical laboratory community in the US.”

Unger continued, “In addition to examining the technical aspects of a laboratory’s operation, the A2LA accreditation process includes a review of its management system. “We hold ourselves to the same expectations for competency that we hold our applicants to, that is, we operate a management system to ISO requirements which is evaluated by external parties, resulting in our international recognition.”

“A2LA accredits to a more rigorous standard than other accrediting bodies in the medical field, signifying to clients and customers an adherence to the highest possible international standard for laboratory excellence,” said Unger.

General criteria for A2LA accreditation of medical laboratories are contained in ISO 15189:2007, Medical laboratories — Particular Requirements for Quality and Competence.

A2LA accreditation attests that a medical laboratory has demonstrated:

- competency to perform specific testing procedures
- that its quality management system is documented, is fully operational, and addresses and conforms to all elements of ISO 15189:2007
- adherence to any additional requirements established by A2LA including measurement traceability and laboratory participation in ongoing proficiency testing.

To assist laboratories in preparing for Accreditation to ISO 15189, A2LA will be offering commercially available training courses in preparation and implementation of the quality management system and technical aspects of the standard.

A2LA is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society that will be celebrating its thirtieth year in 2008. Its mission is to provide comprehensive accreditation services for testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, and product certification bodies. Services are available to any applicant whether they are private or government, and regardless of their size. A2LA is the largest multi-discipline accreditation body in the United States, and is internationally recognized.

A2LA welcomes applications for the accreditation of all types of laboratories. The addition of the ISO 15189 program at A2LA will provide medical laboratories with an additional level of recognition of the excellent service provided to their customers.

Source: A2LA

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