



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HISTOCOMPATIBILITY AND IMMUNOGENETICS

THE RECOGNIZED
LEADER IN CLINICAL
HISTOCOMPATIBILITY
TESTING

2019 ASHI PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

ASHI is pleased to announce the 17th year of its comprehensive proficiency testing program.

Our program utilizes clinically-based samples to assess a laboratory's ability to accurately perform its analyses. All surveys are graded using established criteria with oversight by ASHI's Proficiency Testing Committee.

- The PT program is designed to fully meet the latest ASHI standards for laboratory accreditation.
- A user-friendly data submission website features easy results entry.
- There is international participation by laboratories in 26 countries.
- Current survey categories include: HLA Typing, Engraftment Monitoring, and Antibody Screening/Identification and Crossmatching. The HLA-B27 Detection survey is now offered within the HLA typing (HT) survey using the HT samples. (Those laboratories that order HLA-B27 survey will be placed into a specific HT group to be graded for B27. No additional sample is provided or required for participation.)
- To reflect routine clinical testing, results for Class I and Class II typing, or for antibody identification and crossmatching, are reported using the same samples during the HT and AC surveys, respectively. Whole blood samples are provided for both typing (HT survey) and crossmatching tests (AC survey).
- Cells provided for crossmatch are typed for HLA-A, B, C, DRB1, DRB3/4/5, DQA1, DQB1, DPA1, and DPB1.
- The AC and AO surveys include antibody identification by solid phase testing of complement fixing antibodies. The surveys also include the option to report antibodies against Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor (AT1R) as an ungraded, educational challenge.
- The AO module is for antibody identification only and does not include cells for crossmatching. This provides cost savings for laboratories that do not require crossmatch proficiency testing.
- The Virtual Crossmatch Educational challenge will be available to subscribers in 2019. Subscribers from each survey region/group will have the opportunity to utilize their own AC survey antibody results in conjunction with donor cell typing from another region/group (assigned by the PT Committee) to perform virtual crossmatch assessments that can be compared to actual crossmatch results from AC survey responses. Data analysis of the challenge will be available in ASHI Quarterly after the Summary Report for each AC survey has been completed.
- HLA typing (HT) survey is for serologic, low resolution and/or high resolution typing. Samples have included new alleles and additional sequencing of non-traditional exons performed by recognized experts in the field to confirm the correct results.
- **NEW HT items listed in the 2019 Lab Center!** This year laboratories who wish to purchase a second HT module from a different region/group can do so by purchasing 1 HT module and 1 HTG module. Ordering the HTG module along with the HT module will allow your laboratory to receive the HT module from one region/group and the HTG from a different region/group. For those laboratories ordering the HTG module who may need additional volume from the second region/group, an HTGS (supplemental module from the second region/group) will also be available.
- Summary Reports and concurrent individual Performance Reports present data in a concise and informative fashion, with emphasis on the educational goals of the ASHI Proficiency Testing Program.
- ASHI is accepted by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) as an alternative proficiency testing program provider for the HLA Typing, HLA-B27 Detection, Engraftment Monitoring, and Antibody Screening/Identification and Crossmatching surveys. If your laboratory is accredited by CAP, ASHI is able to report your ASHI PT Survey Performance Reports directly to CAP. Due to the low number of participants, the HLA Class II Antibody Identification by Serology (CDC or AHG) is no longer an accepted analyte.

For further information, please contact Cheryl Hartman at ASHI headquarters at chartman@ashi-hla.org.

PROFICIENCY TESTING CATEGORIES

MULTIPLE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

1. HLA TYPING FOR HLA-A, B, C, DRB1, DRB3/4/5, DQB1, DQA1, DPB1 and DPA1

Two shipments annually, for a total of 10 whole blood specimens, are designed to assess laboratory performance in HLA typing by serological and/or molecular methods. A single basic blood volume will be provided. If additional specimen volume is desired, one or more supplemental volume modules (HTS) may be ordered. (An HTS module may not be ordered without also ordering the basic HT or HT-B27 module).

- **HT-B27 Detection:** The HT-B27 Detection survey will be offered within the HT survey using the HLA typing (HT) samples (no additional samples are required). Laboratories that wish to receive a B27 Summary Report and Performance Report should subscribe to the HT-B27 module to submit results and receive the reports.

HLA TYPING		
	MODULE CODE	DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT
Serological and/or Molecular Typing	HT	Five - 2.5 ml whole blood samples in ACD
HT-B27 Detection	HT-B27	[Laboratory will use whole blood samples shipped for HT survey.]
Supplemental Specimen Volume	HTS	Five - 2.5 ml whole blood samples in ACD
Serological and/or Molecular Typing from a 2nd group/region	HTG	Five - 2.5 ml whole blood samples in ACD (samples will be from a group/region different than the HT module)
Supplemental Specimen Volume from a 2nd group/region	HTGS	Five - 2.5 ml whole blood samples in ACD (from same group/ region as HTG; must be ordered with HTG)

2. ENGRAFTMENT MONITORING

Two shipments annually are designed for laboratories determining engraftment following bone marrow/stem cell transplantation and/or monitoring chimerism after organ transplantation. Each kit contains whole blood specimens from two different individuals and five unknown admixtures of those cells.

ENGRAFTMENT MONITORING		
	MODULE CODE	DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT
Engraftment Monitoring	EMO	Two 3 ml whole blood samples in ACD and five 1 ml admixtures of these samples in ACD

3. SERUM ANTIBODY SCREENING/ IDENTIFICATION AND CROSSMATCHING

Two shipments annually are designed to assess laboratory performance in HLA Class I and Class II serum screening/antibody detection and crossmatching (T-cells and B-cells) if desired. The AC module consists of 10 serum or recalcified plasma samples plus four whole blood specimens per year. This combination of specimens will result in 20 crossmatch challenges per year. Participants can choose to analyze survey specimens by any method used in their laboratories.

Alternatively, the AO module provides a discount to laboratories that do not need to perform crossmatching and consists of 10 serum or recalcified plasma samples only per year, with no whole blood samples.

Subscribers needing additional serum volumes can order ACS modules in addition to ordering the AC or AO modules. Subscribers needing additional whole blood volumes can order ACC modules in addition to ordering the AC module.

HLA ANTIBODY SCREENING/CROSSMATCHING

	MODULE CODE	DESCRIPTION OF EACH SHIPMENT
HLA Antibody Screening/Identification and/or Crossmatching	AC	Five - 1.0 ml serum samples Two - 8.0 ml whole blood samples in ACD
HLA Antibody Screening/Identification w/out Crossmatching	AO	Five - 1.0 ml serum samples only (whole blood samples NOT included)
Supplemental Serum Volume	ACS	Five - 0.5 ml serum samples
Supplemental Whole Blood Volume	ACC	Two - 4.0 ml whole blood samples in ACD

SHIPPING INFORMATION

- P.O. boxes are not acceptable as shipping addresses.
- Participant must include the complete laboratory address, including building number and street name, in the shipping address. An additional fee may be charged if the information is not complete.
- All survey kits will be shipped to addresses in the USA via Priority Overnight Service.
- All survey kits will be shipped to addresses outside the USA via International Priority Service.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

- **Each participant must obtain and complete any necessary documents for importation of non-hazardous human blood specimens for proficiency testing/medical research use.**
- Copies of all such documents must be forwarded to ASHI with the subscription information.
- No replacements will be made for international shipments that are refused entry into a country.
- Due to the unstable nature of target cells, replacement specimens may not be available for some surveys. **Participants that do not require crossmatching or that know cells may not arrive in time to maintain viability are strongly recommended to order the AO survey (antibody identification only).**
- Duties and/or import taxes imposed by the importing country are the receiving laboratory's responsibility.

SHIPPING CHARGES

- For USA addresses, shipping charges are included in each module's price.
- For addresses outside the USA, there will be an additional international shipping charge. Differences in international shipping charges reflect major differences in ASHI costs for shipping to each country.



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