

## **Summary of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Life Sciences Accreditation Advisory Committee**

The meeting was held via Zoom on 30 June 2022.

### **Committee Membership:**

It is now 5 years since the formation of the Life Sciences AAC by combining the Biological Testing AAC and Chemical Testing AAC. Seven members of the Committee will be completing their final term in March 2023, including the Chair and Deputy Chair. Expressions of Interest will be sought to replace those members retiring.

### **General Manager Update:**

- Approximately 2.3% growth in accreditation has been noted since the previous meeting.
- On-site assessments have resumed unless COVID restrictions are in place. Feedback on the use of virtual platforms to undertake assessment activities has been positive and the option for virtual visits will be added to the range of assessment techniques available.
- The Biobanking accreditation program ISO 20387 launched in December 2021 with the first accreditation granted in February 2022.
- There is an increased focus on marketing and communications with the recruitment of marketing and communications specialists.
- ISO/IEC 17025 is due for a 5-year systematic review ballot. The outcome of the ballot is likely to be negative, meaning the Standard will be reconfirmed for a further 5-years.

### **Reports from Members included the following points:**

- Facilities sometimes fail to understand the requirements for Proficiency Testing. Would a decision tree be helpful?
- The benefits of thorough cause analysis are still not understood despite advice from NATA.
- Accreditation for sampling is limited. The driver is regulator demand, this presents an opportunity for NATA.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Q2 2023**.