RMTC Laboratory Accreditation and the RFP Process

Dr. Dionne Benson
University of Arizona Global Symposium on Racing
Laboratory Accreditation
RMTC Laboratory Accreditation

- National Uniform Medication Program
  - Controlled Therapeutic Substances List
  - Third-Party Lasix Administration
  - Multiple Medication Violation Penalties
  - RMTC Laboratory Accreditation
RMTC Laboratory Accreditation

- Goal is to ensure that all laboratories can perform at the same high level of proficiency
  - Application/document review
  - Site inspection
  - Ongoing External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP)
  - Commitment to research, ethics, and information sharing
RMTC Laboratory Accreditation

- Does NOT guarantee that the testing performed for a commission meets the RMTC standards
RFP Model Rule
RMTC recognized that accreditation was only a first step for ensuring the highest level of testing in every jurisdiction.

The contracts between the racing commissions and their laboratories are paramount to ensure the best testing for each and every sample.
Review of the vast majority of contracts between jurisdictions and laboratories
- Some jurisdictions do not have written contracts
- Significant variation in testing, preparation, and cost of sample testing
Model Request for Proposal

- Testing variation
- Sample preparation variation
- Type of testing performed (ELISA, LC–MS/MS, etc.)
- Cost
Model Request for Proposal

- Commission/Laboratory Background Information
  - Sample numbers, race days
  - Laboratory qualifications, facilities and experience

- Scope of Work
  - Post-race, TCO$_2$, Elective testing, Unknowns, etc.

- Quality Control
- Communication/Turnaround Time
- Cost
Scope of Work

- Crucial for Testing
- Post-race testing
  - All testing must be LC–MS/MS absent justification
  - Use of ELISA kits must be limited
  - Sensitivities must be met (appropriate extraction performed) and have validated methods for substances
  - No pooling of samples
  - Option to test all samples taken on race-day or a portion of those samples (cost savings)
Model Request for Proposal

- Use of Model RFP document should allow an “apples to apples” comparison of laboratory services

- Will likely represent an increase in cost for some jurisdictions

- Goal is protecting the health and welfare of the horse and the integrity of the betting public

- Combination of RMTC Accreditation and the Model RFP = best testing
Model Request for Proposal

- www.rmtcnet.com
  - Laboratory Accreditation
    - RMTC Model Request for Proposals and Equine Drug Testing Laboratories

-OR-

Thank you