

Laboratory Committee Meeting
Date: 2025-11-20
Time: 9:00 am–10:00 am ET
Chair(s): Pamela Banning



ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

1. **Pam Banning (Chair)**
 - a. **Chris Gordon**
2. **Andrea Pitkus**
3. **Jenna Rychert**
 - a. Ben Brisbay
 - b. Spencer Siady
4. **Xavier Gansel**
 - a. Mike Dante
5. **Miereia Rodriguez Naque**
 - a. Vicky Berez
 - b. **Gloria Gonzalez**
6. **Anil Patel**
 - a. **Linda Monico**
 - b. Tarek Kadoura
7. **Clem McDonald**
8. **Hung Luu**
 - a. Michelle Stram
9. **Daniel Vreeman**
10. **Stanley Huff**
 - a. Nathan Davis
 - b. Doug Mitchell
11. **Jessie Wright**
12. **Leanna Harmon**
 - a. **Michelle Kincer**
 - b. Kimberly Rich
 - c. **Laura Lemonds**
13. **Leticia Linhares**
14. **Maureen Slackway**
15. **Joseph Yao**
 - a. **Candace Byrge**
 - b. **Carla Ihrke**
16. **Michael Martin**
17. **Tiffany Paulsen**
18. **John Snyder**
 - a. Liz Amos
19. **Feikje Hielkema**
 - a. Inge Soons
20. **Alex Milinovich**
21. **Kimberly Scott**
 - a. Kimberly Brown
22. **Jeremy Sonnenmoser**
23. **Tina Johnson**
 - a. Cindy Martin
24. **Andrea Wu**

Regenstrief Staff:

Eza Hafeza, Geoffrey Ratemo, Marjorie Rallins, Jennifer Pianki

Guests:

Committee Members = 24 | # Attending = 15 | Quorum = Yes

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MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Opening remarks

High-level summary

Participants reviewed feedback from a SHIELD presentation at AMIA, discussed ongoing work to standardize drug toxicology screens for the LOINC–SNOMED collaboration, and walked through proposed modeling changes for challenge tests, coagulation assays, and infectious disease antigen testing, with several issues deferred for follow-up in December.

SHIELD / AMIA feedback and governance

- The group reported that the SHIELD AMIA presentation was very well received overall, with positive comments from modelers and researchers despite one vocal critic from a Georgia lab expressing broader frustration about lab interoperability and LOINC's clinical relevance.
- Pam described reaching out to that attendee to foster a more constructive discussion and possible future AMIA session, and Andrea emphasized using such feedback for ongoing education about LOINC adoption and laboratory needs.
- Andrea announced that Steve Emrick stepped down as SHIELD vocab/standards chair and invited volunteers for a new co-chair role, noting shifting institutional responsibilities among prior leaders.

Drug toxicology (Drug Tox) work

- Pam outlined a large Drug Tox effort: she filtered LOINC 2.81 for drug toxicology concepts with screen/confirm methods, and with help from a Copilot-generated file, is proposing new methodless, immunoassay, and mass-spec rows per analyte to support drugs of abuse testing across US, Canada, and Europe.
- Approximately 1,177 new builds are currently proposed after reconciling with 206 existing methodless LOINC codes, with remaining work on threshold-based screens, unlinked lab tests, examples for detail pages, and creatinine-normalized components.
- The group briefly discussed how to handle fentanyl-related and similar metabolites (e.g., 3-methylfentanyl) and possible SNOMED gaps, agreeing these tie into a broader Drug Tox–SNOMED timeline with early-January content due dates; December voting may be tight for inclusion in the winter LOINC release.

Challenge tests and ontology patterns

- Stan reported that review of real-world challenge test codes showed all existing pattern variants are in actual use, so no existing challenge test patterns will be removed from the LOINC ontology.

- He recommended encouraging use of “XXX challenge” patterns (to be relabeled as “{Challenge type} challenge”) with post-coordination via an existing nominal “challenge type” LOINC concept and a curated value set, while still supporting fully specified one-off challenge codes when requested.
- Questions from John and Andrea centered on whether current LIS/EHR models can reliably support post-coordination (e.g., specimen counts) without losing information, with agreement that nothing existing is being removed but that implementation realities must be considered.

Coagulation modeling changes

- In the coagulation domain, Stan described moving test-reagent details (e.g., tissue factor–induced, surface-induced, Russell viper venom, dilutions) from the LOINC component field into the method field so SNOMED can model them more cleanly, while keeping patient-state descriptors (e.g., “post-heparin neutralization”) in the component like other challenge-style qualifiers.
- Pam and Andrea flagged possible ambiguity about whether “post-heparin neutralization” refers to in-patient drug reversal versus in-vitro reagents (e.g., Hepzyme), and the group agreed to validate current practices with large coag labs (e.g., via Jenna and others) before finalizing placements.

Infectious disease antigen / antibody tests

- Stan presented an issue where some infectious-disease tests are labeled with “antigen” in the component (e.g., “adenovirus antigen”) even though the lab method uses exogenous antibodies to detect the pathogen, and suggested simplifying components to the organism name plus an immunologic method, treating “antigen” as redundant for ontology purposes.
- Jenna strongly opposed removing “antigen” from these components, arguing that from a clinical microbiology perspective, the analyte is explicitly the antigen (distinct from antibody serology and molecular tests), and relying on method alone to infer analyte is risky and may obscure clinically meaningful distinctions.
- With time expiring, Pam suggested preparing detailed comparisons across immunoassay, culture, and nucleic-acid test naming (to avoid losing nuance about identification strength), and the group deferred the antigen/antibody modeling discussion to the December 18 meeting

OPEN ITEMS

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1. Listserv - posting follow-up if any re: Amphetamine (substance) Vs Amphetamines (class or reference to derivative substances)
 - a. Lead: Pam Banning/Andrea Pitkus, Eza Hafeza
 - b. Date Identified / Reference meeting docs as needed: 3/21/2024
 - c. Completed Date: 10/16/2025
 - d. Outcome: SNOMED updated their guidelines and created:
 - 1381482002 NEW – Amphetamine metabolite (Substance)
 - 412035000 – Amphetamine derivative (Substance)

2. Listserv - posting follow-up questions if any re: Drug/Tox Method updates (Screening and Confirmatory)
 - a. Lead: Pam Banning, Eza Hafeza
 - b. Date Identified / Reference meeting docs as needed: 3/19/2024
 - c. Due date: 11/20/2025
 - d. Status: Pam to create proposed content from accepted heuristics, edit kb section 3.7

3. Post on listservs/online forums to identify Endocrinology SMEs to inform challenging “Challenge tests”
 - a. Lead: Pam Banning
 - b. Date Identified / Reference meeting docs as needed: 5/16/2024
 - c. Completed date: 10/16/2025
 - d. OUTCOME: 2 endocrinologists advised Stan Huff on the latest guidelines. Stan will continue with the modeling.

4. Develop mapping guidance for LABORDERS.ONTOLOGY order level codes. Particularly urine chemistries with different collection durations and ratios.
 - a. Lead: Pam Banning, Eza Hafeza, ARUP, Quest, Mayo, LabCorp reps
 - b. Date Identified: 10/16/2025
 - c. Due date: 12/18/2025
 - d. Status: Open

Parked Items:

Stan’s challenge to each committee to identify the attributes necessary

REFERENCE MATERIALS

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[Laboratory Committee Meeting Summary 2025-09-18_Final.docx](#)

[LaboratoryCommittee MeetingSlides 2025-10-16_Final.pptx](#)

[Common patterns of challenge code use.docx](#)

[Drug Tox Select Method](#)

[Antigen and antibody examples.docx](#)

[Coagulation Factors Activity and Activated .docx](#)

[Coagulation Examples.docx](#)

2025 MEETING DATES

- January 16 - Canceled (LOINC Release)
- February 20 - Canceled (LOINC Release)
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 19 - Canceled (US Holiday)
- July 17 - Canceled (LOINC Release)
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18