Chair: Tze Ping LOH

Department of Laboratory Medicine, National University Hospital, Singapore

Working Group on Harmonisation of Reference Intervals

Background
Reference intervals are the numerical boundaries of the (often 95%) central distribution of a reference population. They are important tools for appropriate interpretation of numerical laboratory results. Reference intervals can be derived either by the direct approach, which requires sampling of a reference population with a priori defined criteria and prospective recruitment, or the indirect approach, which involves application of statistical analysis (data mining) on existing laboratory data which often represents mixed 'healthy' and 'pathological' populations. The former approach can be resource-intensive while the latter approach can be technically more demanding.

Objectives
The working group is set up to
1. Explore and describe the theoretical aspects of reference intervals
2. Describe the appropriate interpretation and application of reference intervals for specific biomarkers
3. Derive reference intervals for the region via indirect approach through the Asia-Pacific Reference Intervals Study (APRILS)

Membership (To be updated)
1. Tze Ping Loh (Chair), SG
2. Samuel Vasikaran, AU
3. Corey Markus, AU
4. Dian Nasuruddin, MY

5. Mai Nguyen, VN
6. Busadee Pratumvinit, TH

Consultant
1. Rui Zhen Tan, SG