

The NRL's Workshop on Serology is considered by many to be one of the outstanding annual events in the conference calendar.

The 27th NRL Workshop on Serology, to be held in Melbourne this year in early August, comes at an interesting time of change in Australia's regulatory environment. The new framework for regulation of in vitro diagnostic devices (IVDs) will be introduced in July. The Workshop will provide a forum in which regulators, test kit manufacturers and sponsors can discuss the impact that the new framework will have on laboratories. There will be sessions dedicated to regulation and to the new requirements for validation of IVDs.

As usual, the 2010 Workshop programme will cover topics of broad serology interest, integrated with coverage of testing in support of blood and tissue banking. There will be special emphasis this year on nucleic acid testing (NAT). Excellent international and national experts will discuss state-of-the-art approaches to NAT, and the advantages and pitfalls of developing and validating nucleic acid based tests for infectious diseases.

Pre-Workshop satellite meetings will inform delegates of advances in the NRL's quality assurance programmes. They will also provide information about the likely impact of the newly implemented IVD framework on the programmes delivered by the NRL.

The NRL Workshops provide excellent opportunities for networking and for establishing collaborative relationships. The social agenda fosters this interaction and enhances the Workshop experience.

So make sure you register for the 27th Workshop on Serology soon! We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in August.



Sue Best
Acting Director

Message from the Acting Director