

THE EMERALD CONFERENCE

Produced by MJBizScience

March 1-3, 2023

www.TheEmeraldConference.com

Advancing the degree of laboratory competence

Speaker: Dr. Susan Audino, Principal, S. Audino & Associates, LLC

Abstract: Laboratory testing, quality assurance, quality control, research and development ... all of these are terms and phrases used to describe a laboratory's commitment to demonstrating their ability to meet or exceed analytical requirements. Cannabis laboratories participate in third-party proficiency test programs in partial fulfillment of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation requirements and in partial fulfillment of state cannabis/marijuana regulations. Many parties consider interlaboratory comparison studies (ILCs) as equivalent to proficiency test programs, particularly when proficiency test programs are accredited to ISO/IEC 17043. Proficiency test programs and ILCs are not equivalent and in isolation neither is pivotal to analytical method development. The intended purposes of both PT and ILC is to provide assurance that a laboratory is both competent and proficient to correctly analyze customer samples within specified analytical ranges. As they attempt to demonstrate compliance to the necessary requirements, laboratories often manipulate the PT or ILC processes to obtain "passing" or "acceptable" results. This session will disentangle the (sometimes) overlapping structures of PT programs and ILC studies and raise awareness of their respective limitations. We will also discuss vulnerabilities to the underlying assumption that passing results implies laboratory proficiency.