



Consistency Improvement Task Force (CITF)

Alfredo Sotomayor, CITF Chair
Assessment Forum
January 26, 2010



What Is It?

- ***A concerted effort to improve the consistency of TNI assessments and evaluations***
- Created by the TNI Board of Directors October 2009
- Promotes systems and develops recommendations to improve consistency of assessments and evaluations.
- Chartered for a year, with option for renewal



Who's in It?

Member	Affiliation
Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair	Wisconsin DNR
Jerry Parr, Ex Officio	TNI
Carol Batterton, Staff	TNI
James Broderick	New York City DEP
Jack Farrell	Analytical Excellence, Inc.
Ed Hartzog	DoD EDQW
Kevin Kubik	USEPA Region 2
Tom McAninch	Laboratory Consulting Services
Verl Preston	TestAmerica, Inc.
Stephen Stubbs	Texas Commission Env. Quality
Robert Wyeth	Columbia Analytical Services

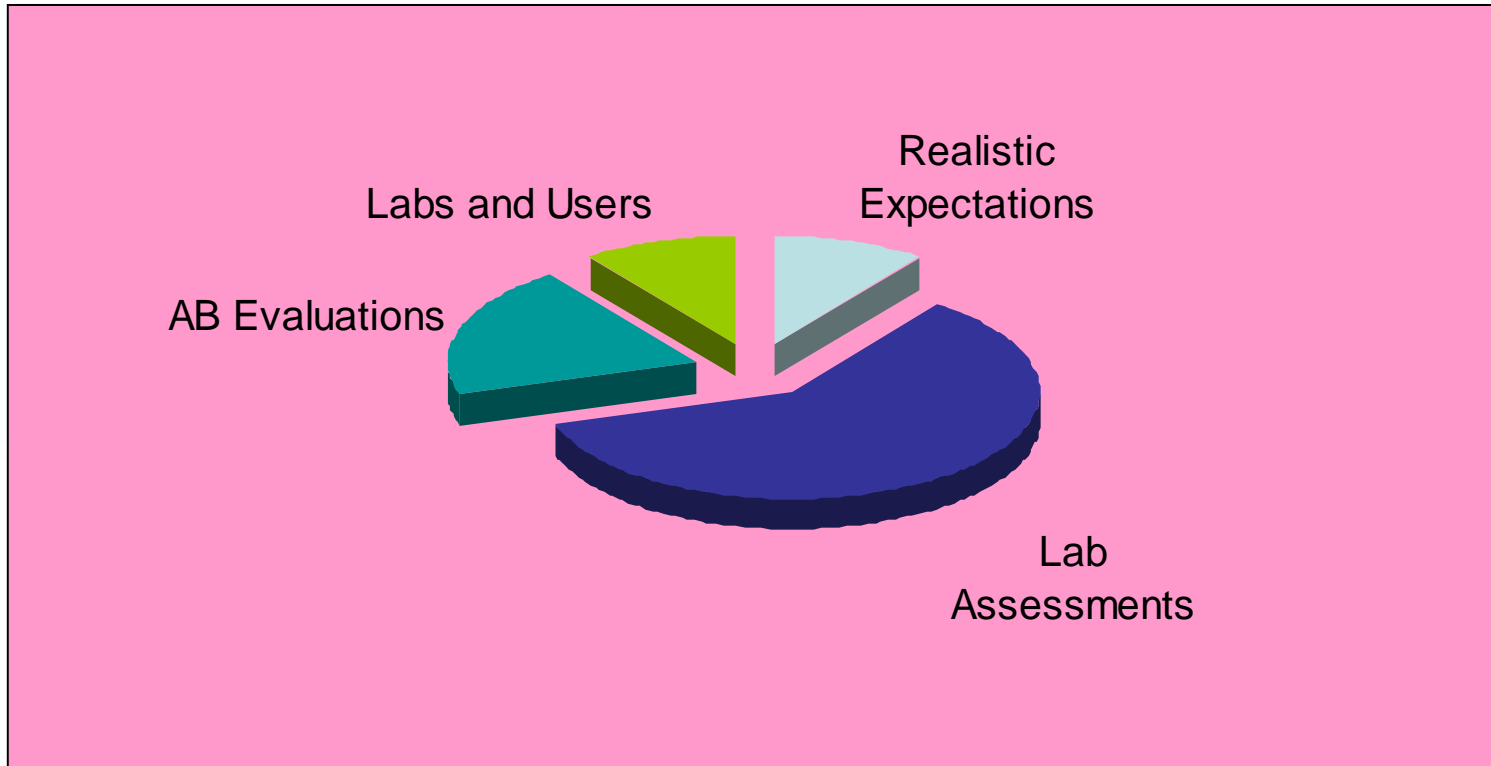


Areas of Interest

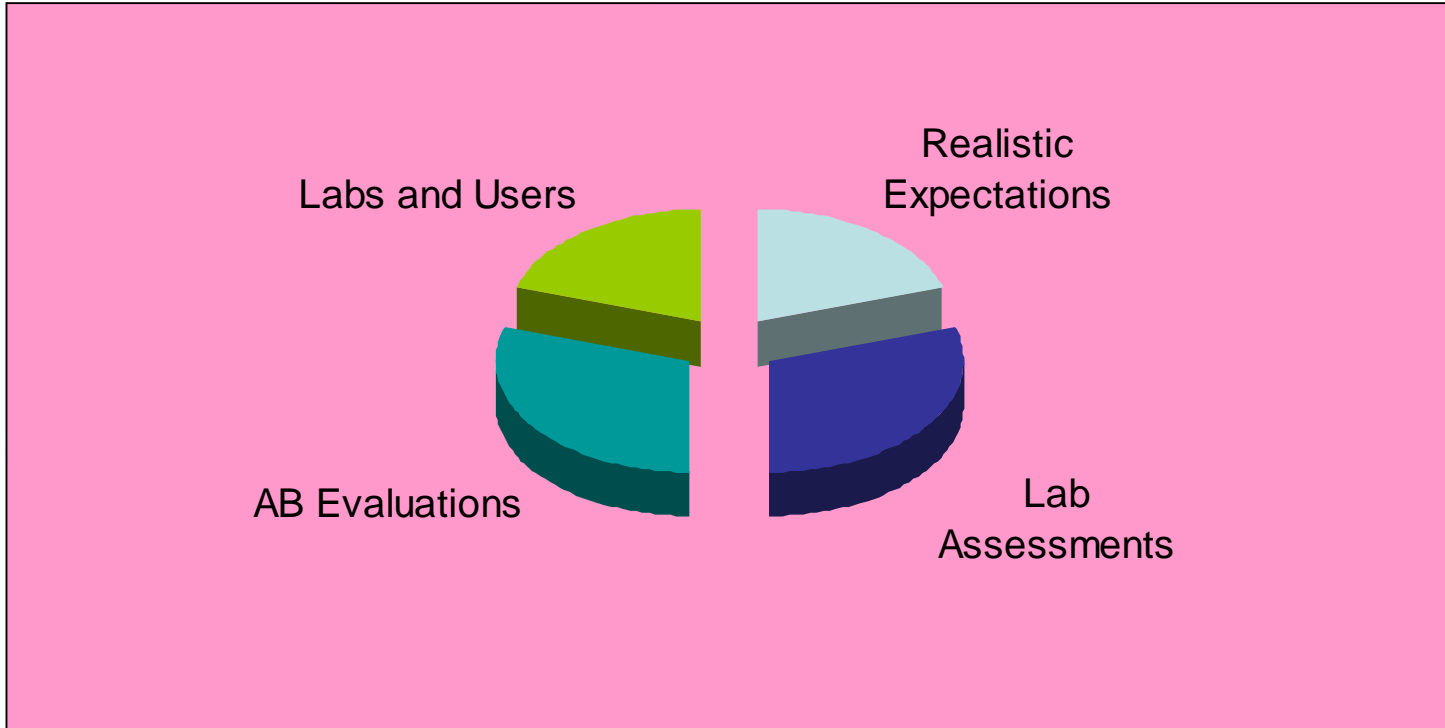
- Expectations about consistency
- On-site assessments of laboratories
- Evaluations of accreditation bodies
- Laboratories and users of laboratory services



Consistency Pie I



Consistency Pie II





Expectations about Consistency

- “Consistency is contrary to nature, contrary to life. The only completely consistent people are dead.”
 - **Aldous Huxley**
- “Consistency requires you to be as ignorant today as you were a year ago.”
 - **Bernard Berenson**
- “Consistency is found in that work whose whole and detail are suitable to the occasion. It arises from circumstance, custom, and nature.”
 - **Vitruvius**



Realistic Expectations on Consistency

- CITF will produce a document discussing:
 - Attributes of consistent systems
 - Sources of inconsistencies
 - Means for determining consistency of operations
 - Ways of improving consistency of operations





On-Site Assessments of Laboratories

- Assessor training
- Process for laboratories to resolve findings
 - NELAP Board, Assessor Feedback
- Blueprint for conducting assessments
 - Emphasis spent on areas of assessment
- Communication of assessors
 - In and between ABs
- Assessors observe one another
- Assessor oversight
- **Focus: Corrective Action Cycle**



Evaluations of ABs

- Evaluator training
- Consistency plans for ABs
 - Define key elements
- Use of requests for interpretations of standards
- Political pressure in accreditation
 - Role of enforcement agents
- Role of third party ABs and reciprocal agreements
- **Focus: Corrective Action Cycle**





Laboratories and Users of Laboratory Services

- Involve regulated community and users of their services
- Tools for implementation of TNI Standards
 - Fresh start; inject consistency from the beginning
- Ready access to decisions regarding interpretation of standards



Deliverables

- A report at conclusion of term
- Products as they become available
- Progress reports to TNI Board



Outreach

- Plan to engage all TNI programs
- Raised issues at:
 - State Assessors' Forum
 - Small Laboratory Advocacy Group
 - Assessment Forum
- Website page
- Mentoring and focused topic sessions



Next Steps

- ❑ Complete CITF workplan
- ❑ Select short-range and long-range projects
- ❑ Solidify partnerships
- ❑ Develop a process for feedback from community



Last Words

- “Most players in this league say they want consistency.”
 - **Isiah Thomas**

- “I pray to be like the ocean, with soft currents, maybe waves at times. More and more, I want the consistency rather than the highs and the lows.”
 - **Drew Barrymore**

- Contact us! We welcome your input.

