



Continuing the APHL-FDA Partnership to Train the Next Generation of Laboratorians

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD LABORATORY WORKFORCE

Over the last 12 years, APHL and FDA's Office of Training, Education and Development (OTED) and Office of Domestic Partnerships (ODP) have successfully worked together with state, federal and association partners to develop the Laboratory Curriculum Framework (LCF) as a foundational piece of the National Curriculum Standard (NCS).

Having a proficient laboratory workforce is critical to the development of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS), and APHL remains dedicated to improving analyst competency nationwide. Since 2018, we have created 21 online courses and one in-person training based on LCF competencies, and four additional courses are in development.

“LCF training courses have been extremely valuable in ensuring our laboratory staff have the basic skills to perform testing for public health. In the last few years, we have experienced significant turnover and this training not only helps to fill the gaps for new scientists, it helps to provide professional development that they appreciate and leads to increased retention.”

~Shane Wyatt, Director of Laboratory Operations for Environmental and Food Testing, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

“While most laboratories have their own internal training programs, few have the resources or planning for ongoing training and career development. Training resources are difficult to find, especially for state agricultural laboratories responsible for analyzing animal food, human food, fertilizers [and] pesticides on a wide variety of matrices. LCF provides a solid plan and much needed training resources to laboratory management.”

~Kristi McCallum, former Laboratory Manager, Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Laboratory Services - Biochemistry Laboratory

Why It Matters

Data from APHL's [2024 Laboratory Workforce Profile Survey](#) revealed that 39% of the public health laboratory workforce has expressed an intention to leave their respective laboratories within the next four years. Development and delivery of laboratory training play a pivotal role in addressing this deepening workforce gap.



Providing Support for FDA

APHL represents and supports multi-disciplinary state laboratories that perform human and animal food testing, generating defensible data for use by state and federal regulatory programs.

Our access to members who are subject matter experts (SMEs) allows us to:

- Clearly determine state regulatory training needs
- Identify SMEs to develop resources that meet learners' needs
- Deliver timely training economically

APHL is well-equipped to support FDA's laboratory training efforts, with experience in OTED's course development process and in delivering both in-person and virtual learning. We stand ready to work with FDA OTED to continue strengthening the HAF laboratory workforce.