

AUL

Association of US-Affiliated Pacific Island Laboratories (AUL)

STRENGTHS

- ▶ Commitment and dedication of the members to sustain the AUL.
- ▶ Desire of AUL members to implement LQMS
- ▶ Desire for accreditation of their laboratories
- ▶ Desire to develop practical knowledge through attachment.
- ▶ Desire to initiate a regional equipment data
- ▶ Collaboration among AUL members despite geographical and cultural diversity
- ▶ Established and effective specimen transport system
- ▶ Effective communication network

WEAKNESS

- Lack of jurisdictional resources (human and financial)
- Challenging transportation and vendor issues
- Communication gaps between laboratory and departments/ministries of health management
- Low salaries and incentives for trained laboratory professionals
- Jurisdictional laws that impede laboratory operations (e.g. procurement laws)
- Retention of qualified laboratory professionals

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Development of Quality manuals [PIHOA initiative]
- Piloting SLMTA/SLIPTA accreditation process at the Yap Medical Laboratory
- Coverage of LQMS training in all the jurisdictions [PIHOA initiative]
- Development of an equipment data list for ALL the jurisdictions.
- First Microbiology attachment was initiated last year [PIHOA, FSM national coordinator and Yap government. Second one will be in August 2018.

PIHOA'S/AUL INITIATIVE

- Initiated implementation of accreditation for the laboratories
- Strengthening the outreach aspect of education development in specific areas of the laboratory.
- Identifying gaps in jurisdictional laboratory structure that will need development and improvement
- Providing additional resources for AUL laboratory development and improvement.

COMMON CHALLENGES

- Shipping costs
- Reagent shortage [Vendor logistics]
- Lack of qualified staff