

**4<sup>th</sup> PQRI Workshop on ICH Q3D  
Elemental Impurities Requirements  
November 9-10, 2020**

**PQRI Phase 2 Elemental Impurities Collaborative Study  
Purpose and Design**

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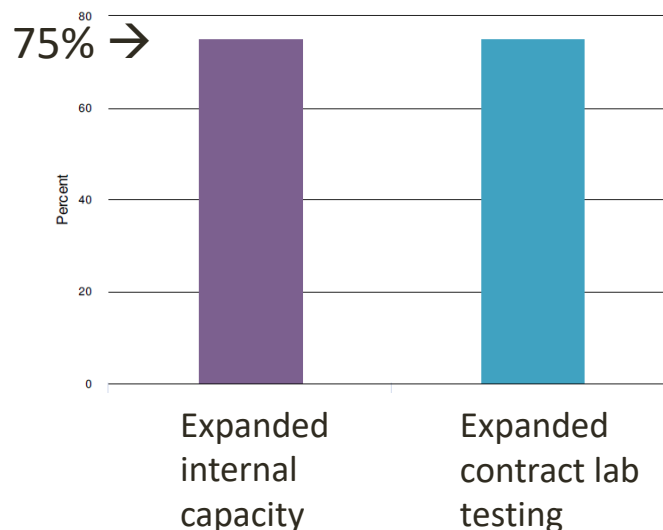
Product Quality Research Institute

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# Learning Opportunities

- Risk assessment requires some basis in data
- Key question for industry and the regulatory community
  - How reliably can we measure elemental impurities in drug products, APIs and excipients at the levels outlined in ICH Q3D and USP <232>/<233>?
- Variety and complexity of pharmaceutical samples and formulations
- Many labs expanding capabilities
  - Pharmaceutical labs adapting to ICP-MS analysis
  - Existing spectroscopy labs adapting to the requirements of <233>



# Phase I Study and Outcomes

Completed in 2014-2015

## Outcomes

- Data for standardized samples allowed assessment of variation across laboratories, between lab variation was higher than within lab variation
- Labs benefit from access to standardized evaluation samples
- Comparison of summation approach and finished product testing
  - Confounded by low levels of native elements and high influence of outliers
- Tighter variation among non-uniform methods
  - Suggests need for flexibility in methodology for testing labs
- XRF demonstrated as a complementary technique to ICP-MS
  - Bias from background levels in materials used to make standards (esp. Pb & V)

## Second Round Study

- PQRI Sponsorship—allows wider participation
- Study Administrator—RTI International

# Inter-laboratory Study Objectives

## Objectives

- Address some key technical challenges faced by industry in preparation for compliance to ICH Q3D and USP <232>/<233>
- Provide a data-driven way to discuss technical aspects and expected variation of ICP-MS analysis of elemental impurities
- More specific objectives:
  - Inter-laboratory data comparison for standardized samples
  - Inter-laboratory evaluation of effectiveness of microwave digestion
  - Comparison of acid leach/extraction techniques to total metal extraction
  - Examination of the correlation (good or bad) between the analysis of individual components (summation) vs. the formulated tablet analysis
  - Comparison of ICP-MS and alternative techniques (ICP-OES and XRF)

# Second Round Evaluation Samples

## Liquid Sample

- Added to assess instrumental variation independent of sample preparation

## Solid Samples

- Tableting is preferred to preserve homogeneity
- Material combination must have favorable mixing & flow properties, and must be compressible
- Multiple tableted evaluation samples targeting three different levels (30%, 100%, and 300% J)
- EI source from pharma materials wherever possible
- EI source from materials that are not easily solubilized

# Formulation Design

| Raw Material                                | Tablet Level 1<br>(30% J, µg/g) | Tablet Level 2<br>(100% J, µg/g) | Tablet Level 3<br>(300% J, µg/g) |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Microcrystalline Cellulose                  | 0.150                           | 0.150                            | 0.150                            |
| Magnesium Aluminum Silicate Clay,<br>USP/NF | 0.050                           | 0.100                            | 0.100                            |
| Lactose monohydrate, NF                     | 0.5305                          | 0.465                            | 0.478                            |
| Pregelatinized Starch                       | 0.200                           | 0.200                            | 0.200                            |
| Stearic Acid                                | 0.012                           | 0.012                            | 0.012                            |
| Ferric Oxide Red, BC                        | 0.050                           | 0.050                            | 0.000                            |
| Silicon Dioxide Standard (As, Co, Hg)       | 0.0060                          | 0.0180                           | 0.0450                           |
| Silicon Dioxide Standard (Cd, Ni, Pb)       | 0.0015                          | 0.0050                           | 0.0150                           |
| Total                                       | 1.00                            | 1.00                             | 1.00                             |



# Digestion Optimization for ICP/MS

- Total digestion:
  - Highly aggressive microwave digestion (using HF or  $\text{HBF}_4$ )
  - Complete digestion that is stable (no re-precipitation)
  - Achieves clear solution with no insoluble material
- Exhaustive extraction:
  - Less aggressive microwave digestion (e.g., EPA 3051A)
  - Acid extraction that is equivalent to the total digestion results
  - Achieves totally recovery of EIs from tablet matrix, but does not necessarily achieve a clear solution
- Test the variability of the analytical method across the labs
  - Minimize the differences in sample preparation between labs
- Limitations:
  - HCl – Not all microwave systems are compatible
  - HF/ $\text{HBF}_4$  – Not all labs equipped for use



# Second Round Design Improvements & Best Practices

## Uniform Sample Preparation

- Specify parameters such as sample size, sampling technique, replicates, acid mixtures, and digestion temperature/pressure
- Document type of digestion vessels and microwave model used
  - IPV vs. SRC



# Second Round Design Improvements & Best Practices

## Uniform Analysis

- Define isotopes used for quantitation
- Define procedures around units, LOQs, calibration, system suitability and data reporting
- Document interference management (reaction/collision gases, correction equations, etc.), internal standards, and any additional isotopes monitored
- Document instrument type
  - Single Quad vs. Triple Quad vs. High resolution systems



# Sample Preparation and Calibration for XRF

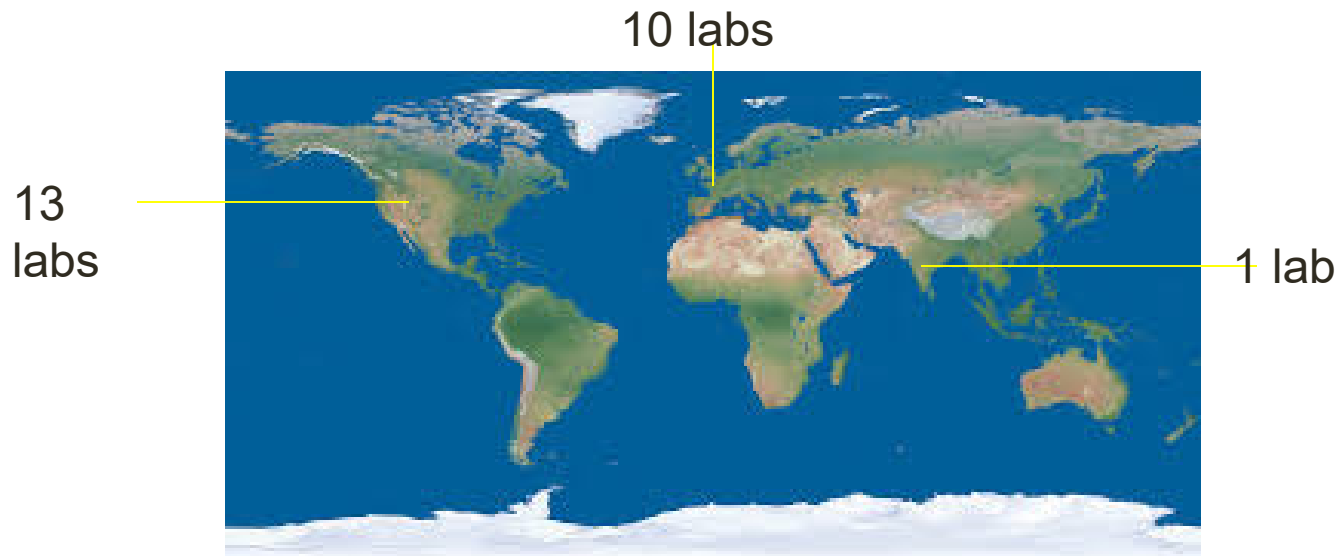
## Key Decisions for XRF Study Design

- Calibration type
  - How to minimize bias for Pb & V?
  - Considered use of standard additions
  - Because of multiple tablet levels all with similar composition, fundamental parameters option was utilized
- FP approach had implications on sample preparation
  - Additional, clean source of silicon dioxide required



# Recruiting

- 24 laboratories participated
  - Pharma manufacturers or suppliers: 16 laboratories
  - Contract/CRO: 3 laboratories
  - Instrument manufacturers: 3 laboratories
  - Government/compendial: 2 laboratories



# Acknowledgements

- PQRI
- James Harrington, Frank Weber, RTI International
- Phil Riby, University of Manchester
- Matt Roberts, Samar Thiab, Liverpool John Moores University
- Denise McClenathan, Kelly Smith, Andrei Shauchuk, P&G
- Dave Schoneker, Colorcon/Black Diamond Consulting
- Glenn Williams, Thanh Nguyen, Rigaku
- Frank Flynn, Peter Ciullo, Vanderbilt Minerals
- Josh Foote, Perrigo
- Gary Hayes, Colorcon
- TAC Team members
- All participating labs



# Today's Agenda

## Method Development and Laboratory Participant Perspective

- Denise McClenathan – P&G

## Results Review and Publication

- ICP-MS - Donna Seibert - Perrigo
- XRF - Glenn Williams and Thanh Nguyen - Rigaku

**12:30 – 1:00 pm**      **Lunch**

## Main Take-aways

- Statistician Interpretation - Steven Erickson - RTI
- Key Findings - James Harrington - RTI

## Implications for Analytical Testing in Laboratories for EI/Participant Perspective

- Francine Walker – SGS Chemical Solution Laboratories, Inc.

## Implications on Risk Assessments/Industry Perspective

- Xiaoyi Gong - Merck

**3:00 – 3:30 pm**      **Break**

Breakout Sessions—Explore the impact of the study on industry and regulators