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Final Report

QCMD 2009 ENVA9

HIV Drug Resistance Typing EQA Programme

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on behalf of QCMD and its Scientific Advisory Board
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The QCMD programme is organised
in collaboration with the European
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1. Programme Aims

The primary aims of this external quality assessment programme were to assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the HIV-1 Protease and Reverse transcriptase genes.

2. Programme details

Table 1: Programme Details

QCMD ENVA9	
Date programme distributed	21/09/2009
Number of participants	119
Number of countries	42
Number of respondents	105 (88%)
Number of non-respondents	14 (12%)
Number of datasets submitted	108

All participants who had not submitted results prior to the closing date for submission were contacted by e-mail. Five participants withdrew from the programme citing "Technical issues" (n=2), "Test not performed" (n=1), "Unable to amplify from material provided" (n=1) & "Purchased for validation purposes" (n=1) while eight did not respond or submit results and one participant did not submit sequence data. In the previous HIV Drug Resistance Typing EQA Programme (ENVA8) 8 % of participants (9 laboratories) were non-respondents.

3. Panel composition

The ENVA9 panel consisted of five well-characterised samples derived from cultured clinical isolates or recombinant viruses. The sample materials were heat inactivated (30 minutes at 56 degrees centigrade) and dispensed into 1ml aliquots. Viral loads of the materials were determined before and after lyophilisation (Table 2).

Table 2: Panel composition & viral load determination

Sample	Matrix ¹	Subtype	Release testing ² Lyophilised samples Viral load (copies/ml)
ENVA09-02	Citrate plasma	G	1.13 x 10 ⁴
ENVA09-03	Citrate plasma	B	1.06 x 10 ⁴
ENVA09-05	Citrate plasma	C	2.79 x 10 ⁴
ENVA09-06	Citrate plasma	C	1.21 x 10 ⁴
ENVA09-07	Citrate plasma	A	1.13 x 10 ⁴

1. All samples were diluted in HIV, HBV and HCV negative citrate plasma and lyophilised prior to distribution.

2. Release testing was performed using the Roche COBAS TaqMan HIV-1 Test.

4. Programme results

Analysis of the Sequence Data

Table 3(a): Summary of submitted results by individual dataset

Lab. Code ²	Method	ENVA9-02		ENVA9-03		ENVA9-05		ENVA9-06		ENVA9-07	
		PR2 ³	RT2 ³	PR3 ³	RT3 ³	PR5 ³	RT5 ³	PR6 ³	RT6 ³	PR7 ³	RT7 ³
AU008.SP	IH										
BE007.CD	IH										
CA008.CD	IH										
CH020.SP	IH										
CY002.CD	IH										
DE006.CD	IH										
DE012.CD	IH										
DE017.SP	IH										
DE026.CD	IH										
DE084.CD	IH										
DE093.CD	IH										
DE112.CD	IH										
ES036.CD	IH										
FR002.SP	IH										
FR003.CD	IH										
FR039.SP	IH										
FR084.SP	IH										
FR102.SP	IH										
GB003.CD	IH										
GB006.CD	IH										
GB007.CD	IH										
GB010.CD	IH										
GB011.1.CD	IH										
GB016.CD	IH										
GB019.CD	IH										
GB064.CD	IH										
GB098.CD	IH										
HK001.CD	IH										
HK004.CD	IH										
HK020.CD	IH										
HU008.SP	IH										
IT043.CD	IH										
NO010.CD	IH										
NZ001.CD	IH										
SE001.CD	IH										
SE002.SP	IH										
SK005.SP	IH										
UG002.CD	IH										
US048.CD	IH										
YU002.CD	IH										
ZA018.1.CD	IH										
ZA018.2.CD	IH										
AT002.CD	TG										
AU012.1.SP	TG										
BE001.SP	TG										
BE002.CD	TG										
BE005.CD	TG										
BE010.CD	TG										
BE020.CD	TG										
BE026.CD	TG										
BG002.SP	TG										
DE003.CD	TG										
DE027.SP	TG										
DE081.CD	TG										
ES014.CD	TG										
ES018.CD	TG										
ES028.CD	TG										
ES031.SP	TG										
ES044.CD	TG										
FR053.CD	TG										
GR013.CD	TG										
HR004.SP	TG										
IE002.CD	TG										
IL003.SP	TG										
IT066.SP	TG										
IT092.CD	TG										
LV005.CD	TG										
PL010.CD	TG										
TH001.SP	TG										
US051.CD	TG										
ZA006.CD	TG										
ZA024.CD	TG										
AT012.CD	VS										
AU012.2.CD	VS										
BE049.CD	VS										
CZ001.CD	VS										
DE004.CD	VS										
DE007.CD	VS										
DE014.CD	VS										
DE020.CD	VS										
FI001.CD	VS										
GB001.CD	VS										
GB009.CD	VS										
GB011.2.CD	VS										
GB020.CD	VS										
IT011.CD	VS										
IT012.CD	VS										
IT023.CD	VS										
IT037.CD	VS										
IT051.CD	VS										
LT001.CD	VS										
LU001.CD	VS										
NL003.CD	VS										
NL008.CD	VS										
NL009.CD	VS										
NL022.CD	VS										
NL032.CD	VS										
NL037.CD	VS										
NO006.CD	VS										
PL047.CD	VS										
PT008.CD	VS										
PT020.CD	VS										
SE003.CD	VS										
SI006.CD	VS										
US042.CD	VS										
ZA003.CD	VS										
ZA009.CD	VS										
ZA030.CD	VS										

Please see legend on page 4.

Table 3(a): This table summarises the datasets submitted by participants, depending on whether combined or separate analysis of the Protease and Reverse transcriptase genes was performed. Details of the alignments are provided in Figures 1 to 5.

1. Shaded cell = sequence submitted and non-shaded cell = sequence NOT submitted.
2. CD = combined amplification for Protease and Reverse transcriptase and SP = separate amplification for Protease and Reverse transcriptase.
3. PR = Protease and RT = Reverse transcriptase.

These data are presented by panel sample and method of analysis. IH = In-house techniques, TG = Siemens TRUGENE HIV-1 Genotyping Test and VS = Celera Diagnostics ViroSeq HIV-1 Genotyping System.

Table 3(b): Summary of the number of reported datasets per sample and technology

Sample	Cumulative (%)	Number of full datasets (PR and RT) ^{1,2}		
		In-house (%)	TruGene (%)	ViroSeq (%)
ENVA09-02	103/108 (95.37 %)	39/42 (92.85 %)	30/30 (100 %)	34/36 (94.44 %)
ENVA09-03	104/108 (96.29 %)	40/42 (95.24 %)	30/30 (100 %)	34/36 (94.44 %)
ENVA09-05	105/108 (97.22 %)	39/42 (92.85 %)	30/30 (100 %)	36/36 (100 %)
ENVA09-06	95/108 (87.96 %)	37/42 (88.09 %)	29/30 (96.77 %)	29/36 (80.56 %)
ENVA09-07	91/108 (84.26 %)	39/42 (92.85 %)	16/30 (51.61 %)	36/36 (100 %)
ALL SAMPLES	78/108 (72.22 %)	35/42 (83.33 %)	15/30 (50 %)	28/36 (77.78 %)

1. PR = Protease and RT = Reverse transcriptase.

2. Datasets were counted only if data were submitted for both the Protease and Reverse transcriptase genes.

Calculation of the consensus sequences

The ENVA9 consensus sequences were prepared by aligning the sequences submitted by all participants in the programme. The sequences returned for each codon were then analysed. The majority result (observed in >60% of the sequences) was recorded as the consensus sequence for each codon. The consensus sequences calculated from all the sequences submitted by the participants were in substantial agreement with the consensus sequences calculated from the independent testing results.

The ENVA Scoring system

In order to compare the results of participants, a scoring system was applied in which the correct detection of a codon genotype (i.e. identical to the codon genotype of the consensus sequence) was given 1 point and an incorrect codon (not matching the consensus sequence) was given 0 points. For codons containing a mixture of 2 or 3 nucleotides at a certain position, 1 point was given if the mixture was reported or if the correct mutation was reported.

Table 3(c): Scoring Table

Expected Result \ Participants Result	Wild Type	Mutant Type	Mixed Type
Wild Type	1	0	0
Mutant Type	0	1	1
Mixed Type	0	1	1

The number of codons involved was 38 for Protease and 30 for Reverse transcriptase. Therefore the maximum performance score that could be achieved was 68 points for all panel members. This resulted in an overall maximum score achievable of 340 points.

Table 4: Genotypic composition of the ENVA9 samples at each of the IAS defined resistance codons

Amino Acid position ¹	WT ²	ENVA9				
		-02	-03	-05	-06	-07
PR-10	CTC	CTA	ATC	TTT	CTT	TTA
PR-11	GTC					
PR-13	ATA	GTA	GTA			GTA
PR-16	GGG			GAG		
PR-20	AAG	ATA			AGG	ATA
PR-24	TTA				CTA	
PR-30	GAT			AAC		
PR-32	GTA					
PR-33	TTA	TTG		CTA		
PR-34	GAA					
PR-35	GAA	GAC	GAC	GAC	GAT	GAC
PR-36	ATG	ATA	ATA	GTA	ATA	ATA
PR-43	AAA					
PR-46	ATG		ATA			
PR-47	ATA					
PR-48	GGG			GGA	GGA	
PR-50	ATT					
PR-53	TTT					
PR-54	ATC		GTC			
PR-58	CAG				CAA	CAA
PR-60	GAT					
PR-62	ATA		GTA	GTA		
PR-63	CTC	CTT	CCC	CTT	CTT	CCT
PR-64	ATA					
PR-69	CAT	AAA		AAA	AAG	AAA
PR-71	GCT		ACT			GCC
PR-73	GGT	GGG		GGC		
PR-74	ACA			TCA		
PR-76	TTA					
PR-77	GTA	RTA			GTG	GTG
PR-82	GTC	ATC	GCC			
PR-83	AAC					
PR-84	ATA					
PR-85	ATT					
PR-88	AAT			GAT	AAC	
PR-89	CTG	ATG		ATG	ATG	ATG
PR-90	TTG		ATG			
PR-93	ATT		CTT	CTT	CTT	

Amino Acid position ¹	WT ²	ENVA9				
		-02	-03	-05	-06	-07
RT-41	ATG			TTG		
RT-62	GCC				GYC	
RT-65	AAA			AAG	ARG	
RT-67	GAC			AAC	RAC	GAT
RT-69	ACT			GAT	AYT	ACC
RT-70	AAA			AAG	AAG	
RT-74	TTA					
RT-75	GTA				RYA	
RT-77	TTC	TTT		TTT		
RT-90	GTT	GTC				GTC
RT-98	GCA	GCG		GGA		GCG
RT-100	TTA					
RT-101	AAA				CAA	
RT-103	AAA				AAC	
RT-106	GTA			GTG	ATG	
RT-108	GTA					
RT-115	TAT					
RT-116	TTT					
RT-138	GAG				GCA	
RT-151	CAG					CAA
RT-179	GTC	GTG	GTT	GTT	GTT	GTG
RT-181	TAC		TAT	TAT	TAT	
RT-184	ATG			GTA	GTR	
RT-188	TAT					
RT-190	GGA					
RT-210	TTG			TGG		CTG
RT-215	ACC			TAC		
RT-219	AAA			AAG	AAR	
RT-225	CCT			CCC	CCA	CCC
RT-230	ATG					

Key: Genotypic mixture using the IUB nucleotide ambiguity system

IUB Code	K	M	R	S	W	Y	B	D	H	V	N
Mixture of	G or T	A or C	A or G	G or C	A or T	C or T	C, G or T	A, G or T	A, C or T	A, C or G	Any Base

Cornish-Bowden A. IUPAC-IUB Symbols for Nucleotide Nomenclature. *Nucleic Acids Research*. 1985; 13: 3021-3030.

The Protease and Reverse transcriptase gene codons presented are those associated with clinical drug resistance, according to Johnson VA *et al.* (2008). Update of the Drug Resistance Mutations in HIV-1: December 2008. *Topics in HIV Medicine*, 16(5):138-145.

1. PR = Protease and RT = Reverse transcriptase.
2. WT = Wild type sequence pNL4-3.

An empty box signifies that the consensus sequence was in agreement with the wild type sequence pNL4-3.

Additional legend information for Figures 1 to 5

The consensus sequences are presented at the top of figures 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 and were determined by analysing all sequences submitted by participants for the Protease (PR) and Reverse transcriptase (RT) genes.

A period (.) indicates agreement with the consensus sequence.

A nucleotide letter or IUB code indicates a difference in sequence composition compared with the consensus sequence.

Figure 1: Sequence at Drug Resistance Mutation Sites for each Technology group - ENVA9-02

In-house
Mutant
--- No sequence or not aligned
TruGene
Wildtype
Mixture
(Additional legend information can be found on page 5)

Lab Code	Protease																																Reverse Transcriptase																																		
	10	11	16	20	24	30	32	34	35	38	43	46	47	48	50	53	54	58	60	62	63	64	68	71	73	74	76	77	82	83	84	85	88	90	93	41	62	65	67	69	70	74	75	77	80	86	100	101	103	106	108	115	116	138	151	173	181	184	188	190	210	215	219	225	230		
BE007	CTA	GTC	GTA	GGG	ATA	TAA	GAT	GTA	TTG	GAA	GAC	ATA	AAA	ATG	ATA	GGG	ATT	ATC	CAG	GAT	ATA	CTT	ATA	AAA	GCT	GGG	ACA	TAA	RTA	ATC	AAC	ATA	ATT	AAT	ATG	TTG	ATT	ATG	GCC	AAA	GAC	ACT	AAA	TAA	GTA	TTT	GTC	GGC	TAA	AAA	AAA	GTA	GTA	TAT	TTT	GAG	CAG	GTG	TAC	ATG	TAT	GGA	TTG	ACC	AAA	CCT	ATG

Figure 3: Sequence at Drug Resistance Mutation Sites for each Technology group - ENVA9-05

 In-house	 Mutant	---
 TruGene	 Wildtype	(Additional legend information can be found on page 5)
 ViroSeq	 Mixture	

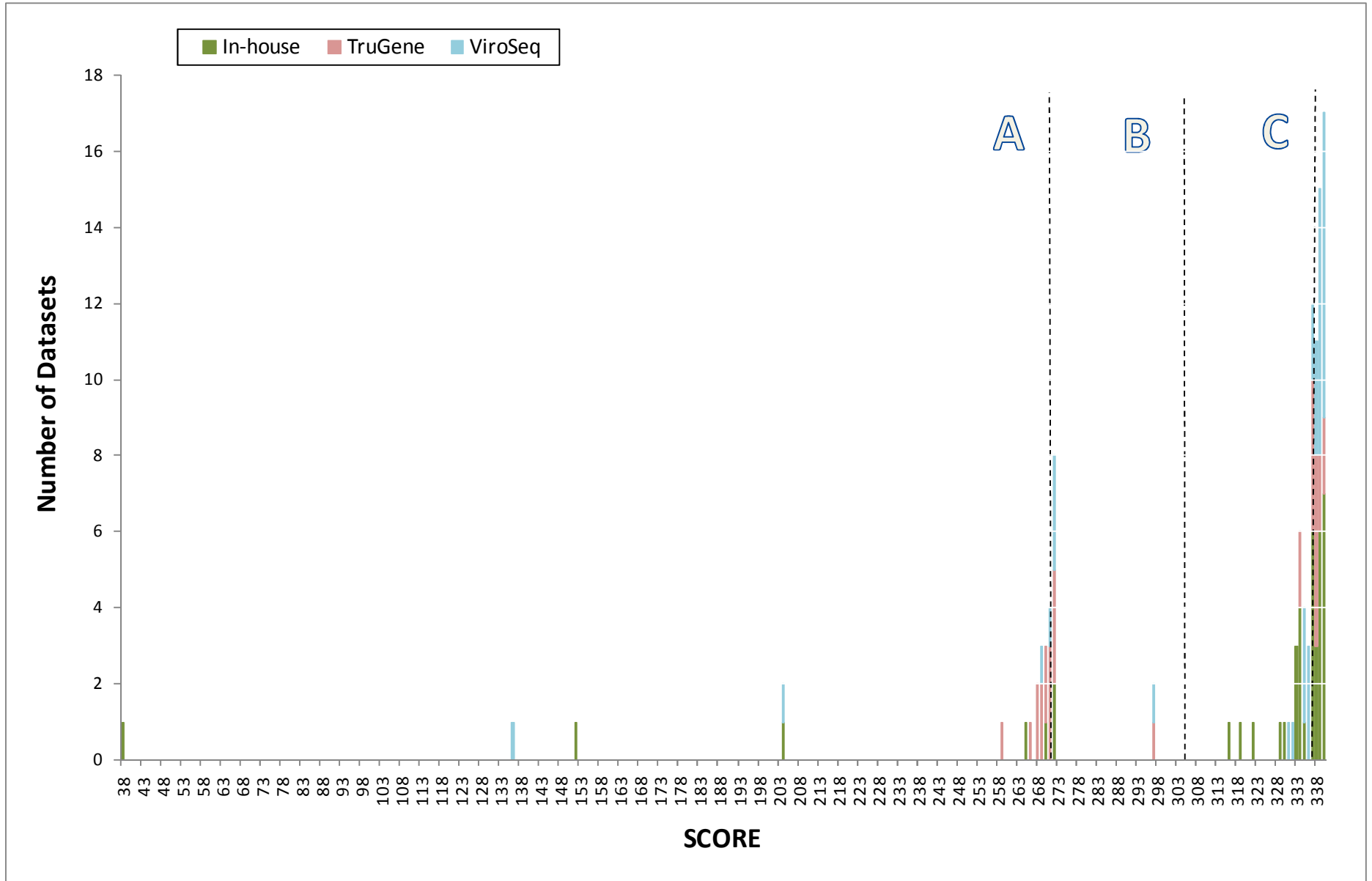
Lab Code	Protease																																	Reverse Transcriptase																														
	10	11	13	16	20	24	30	32	33	34	35	36	43	46	47	48	50	53	54	56	60	62	63	64	68	71	73	74	76	77	82	83	84	85	88	89	90	93	94	92	93	95	97	99	100	101	103	106	108	115	116	138	151	179	181	184	188	190	210	215	218	225	230	
AU008	TTT	GTC	ATA	GAG	AAG	TTA	AAC	GTA	CTA	GAA	GAC	GTA	AAA	ATG	ATA	GGA	ATT	TTT	ATC	CAG	GAT	GTA	GTT	ATA	AAA	GCT	GGC	TCA	TTA	GTA	GTC	AAC	ATA	ATT	GAT	ATG	TTG	GTT	TTG	GCC	AAG	AAC	GAT	AAG	TTA	AAA	AAA	GTTG	GTA	TAT	TTT	GAG	CAG	GTT	TAT	TAT	GTA	TAT	GGA	TGG	TAC	AGG	CCC	ATG

Figure 5: Sequence at Drug Resistance Mutation Sites for each Technology group - ENV9-07

■ In-house ■ Mutant --- No sequence or not aligned
■ TruGene ■ Wildtype (Additional legend information can be found on page 5)
■ ViroSeq ■ Mixture

Lab Code	Protease																																		Reverse Transcriptase																																	
	10	11	16	16	22	24	30	32	33	34	35	36	43	46	47	48	50	53	54	56	60	62	63	64	66	71	73	74	76	77	82	83	84	85	88	89	90	93	41	62	65	67	68	69	70	74	75	77	80	86	100	101	103	106	108	115	116	138	151	173	181	184	188	190	210	215	219	223
AU008	TTA	GTC	GTA	GGG	ATA	TTA	GAT	GTA	TTA	GAA	GAC	ATA	AAA	ATG	ATA	GGG	ATT	TTT	ATC	CAA	GAT	ATA	CCT	ATA	AAA	GCC	GGT	ACA	TTA	GTG	GTC	AAC	ATA	ATT	AAT	ATG	TTG	ATT	ATG	GCC	AAA	GAT	ACC	AAA	TTA	GTA	TTC	GTC	GCG	TTA	AAA	AAA	GTA	GTA	TAT	TTT	GAG	CAA	GTG	TAC	ATG	TAT	GGA	CTG	ACC	AAA	CCC	ATG

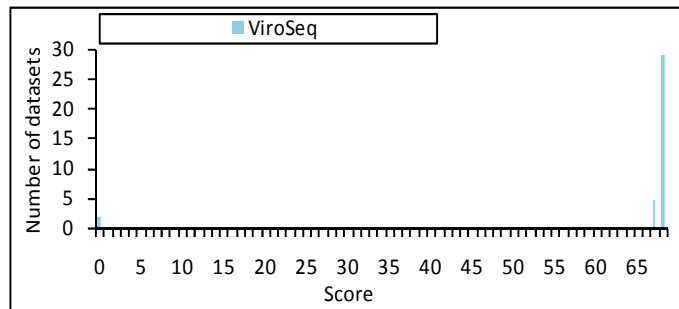
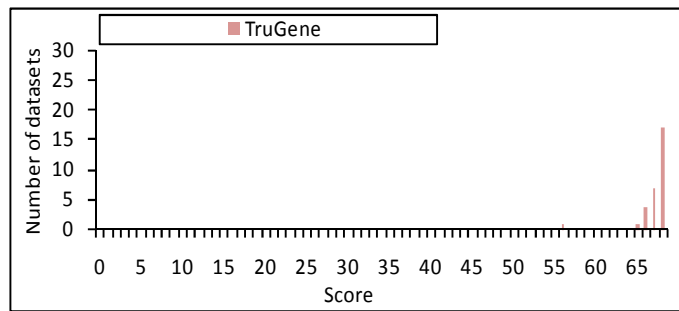
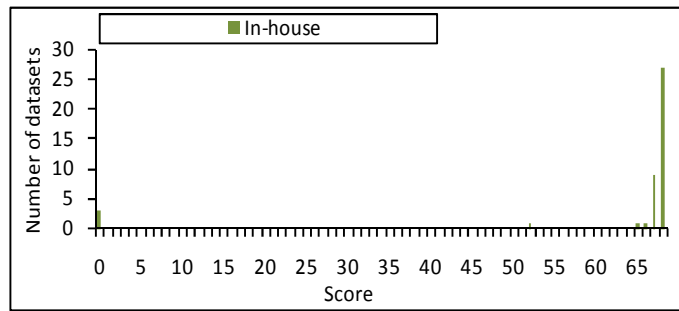
Figure 6: Summary of overall performance scores by technology



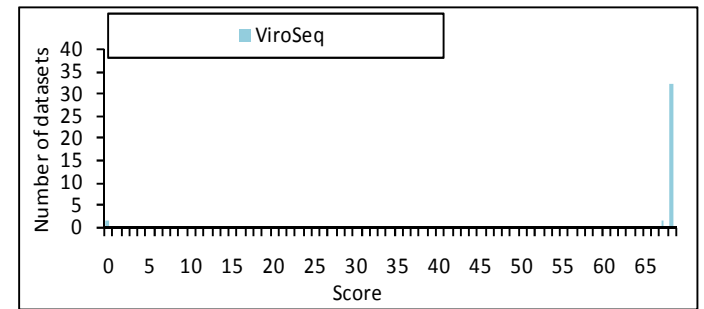
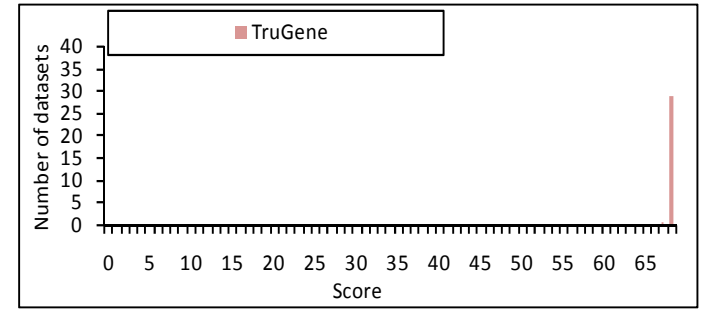
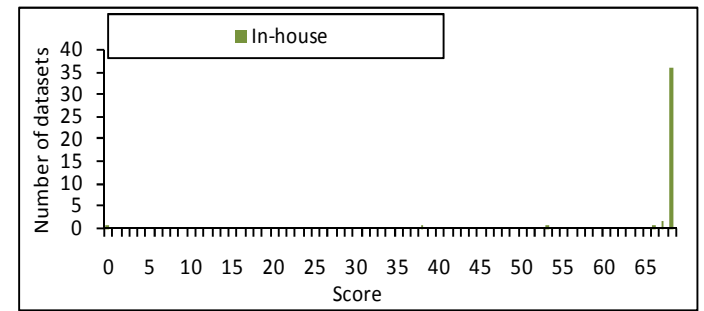
A: 80% (272) of maximum achievable score (340), B: 90% (306) of maximum achievable score (340), C: 99% (336) of maximum achievable score (340).

Figure 7(a): Summary of performance scores by panel sample

ENVA9-02



ENVA9-03

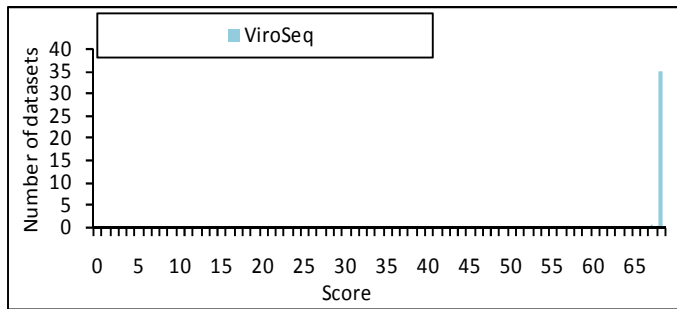
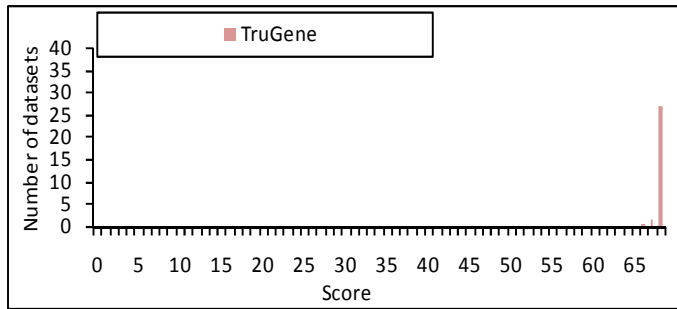
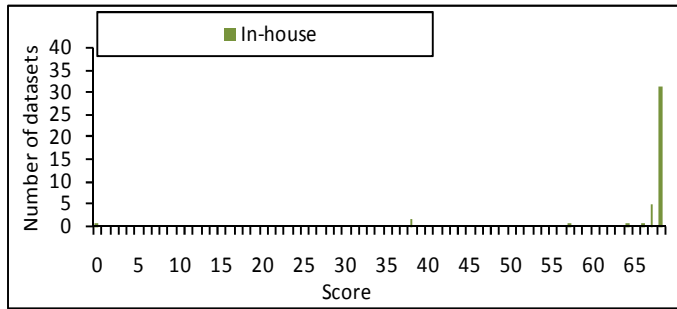


The maximum score achievable for all samples was 68.

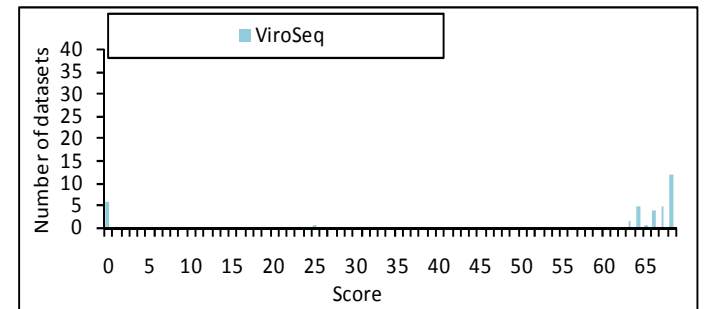
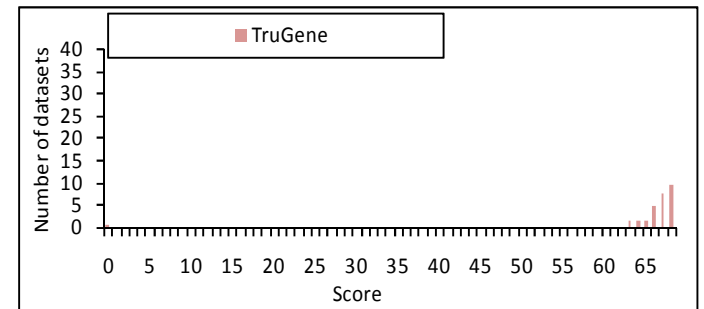
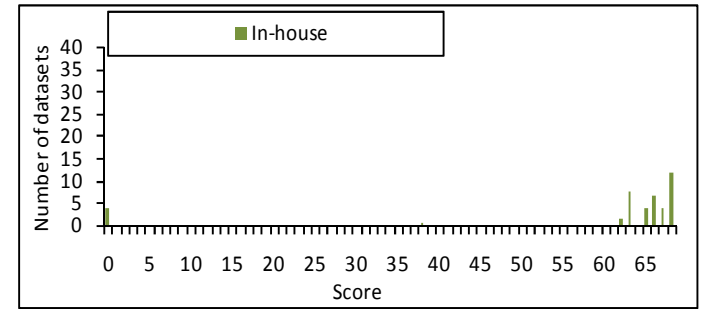
Datasets containing either a frame-shift or missing sequences resulted in a low performance score.

Figure 7(b): Summary of performance scores by panel sample

ENVA9-05



ENVA9-06

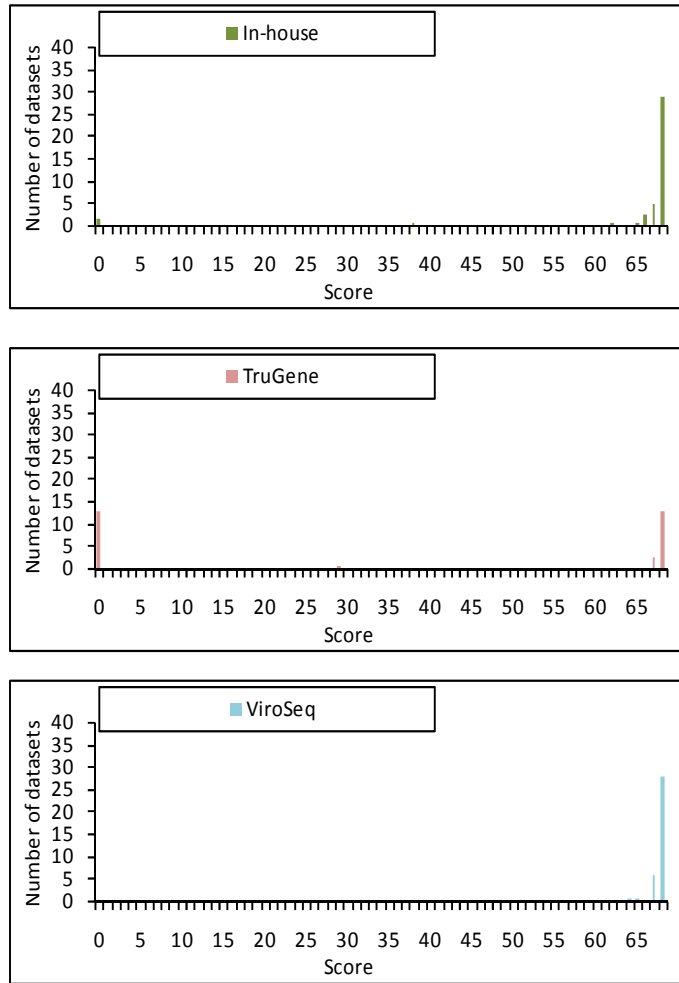


The maximum score achievable for all samples was 68.

Datasets containing either a frame-shift or missing sequences resulted in a low performance score.

Figure 7(c): Summary of performance scores by panel sample

ENVA9-07



The maximum score achievable for all samples was 68.

Datasets containing either a frame-shift or missing sequences resulted in a low performance score.

Comments

The ENVA9 EQA panel was chosen by the Europe HIV Resistance (EHR) working group on quality control. The panel consisted of human plasma samples spiked with cultured patient isolates or recombinant viruses. The viruses present in the panel were of HIV-1 subtype A, B, C or G.

- The consensus sequences calculated from the testing results were in agreement with the consensus sequences calculated from the results of all participant datasets submitted during the actual distribution.
- The majority of datasets were generated using commercial HIV drug resistance genotyping kits: 36 For ViroSeq (33.3%) and 30 for TruGene (27.8%). The remaining 42 datasets (38.9%) were generated with in-house genotyping assays (Table 3b).
- All technologies were successful in the sequence analysis of the panel samples. There were no systematic negative results with any of the panel samples. However :
 - o The success rate for genotyping of ENVA9-07, harbouring an HIV-1 subtype A strain, was lower for TruGene than for other technologies. This observation will be investigated further in future EQA rounds.
 - o The success rate for genotyping of ENVA9-06, harbouring an HIV-1 subtype C strain, was lower for Viroseq than for other technologies. The success rate for sample ENVA9-05, also harbouring an HIV-1 subtype C strain, was high. This observation will be investigated further in future EQA rounds.
- The number of complete datasets (covering both the Protease and Reverse transcriptase genes) for all samples was 72.2%. This was lower compared to the success rate in ENVA8 (84.3%). This difference maybe due to the different composition of the ENVA9 panel. In order to provide state of the art panels in each distribution, the ENVA panels are composed differently for each round. Therefore it is only possible to draw general conclusions on variations in success rates between distributions.
- The number of full datasets reported to QCMD was higher for the in-house assays (83.3%), compared to TruGene (50.0%) or ViroSeq (77.8%) (Table 3b). The lower rates for Trugene and ViroSeq were due to the lower success rates for samples ENVA9-06 and -07.
- Overall, the percentage of datasets recording over 99.0% of the maximum achievable score (340) was 53.7% (n=58/108) (Figure 6). The range of scores reported for those datasets that did not achieve 99.0% (of the maximum achievable score or greater) ranged from 38 to 335 points. Most of the lower scoring datasets were due to:
 - o Missing results for complete genes (either PR or RT) or complete panel samples (Table 3a and Figure 6).
 - o Reduced detection of mutant nucleotides in mixed wild type/mutant type codons in the RT gene of ENVA9-06 was observed, in particular for TruGene users. This specifically involved RT codons 62, 65, 69 and 75. This resulted in an underestimation of the prevalence of resistance mutations in this sample. The exact proportion of wildtype and mutant virus at these positions is unknown. Therefore, no conclusions can be drawn with regard to the absolute sensitivity of methods for the detection of mutant genotypes being part of mixed nucleotide populations. However, the results demonstrate that the capability for detecting specific nucleotides as part mixed populations may vary by technology.

Acknowledgements

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