



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30341-3724

June 15, 2011

**Dear Colleague,**

The Division of Laboratory Sciences, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) as one of the most preventable causes of mental retardation in the world. The CDC has established Ensuring the Quality of Iodine Procedures (EQUIP) to assist worldwide laboratories to effectively analyze urinary iodine levels and assess the health of populations. Through EQUIP, CDC provides participating laboratories with quality-control materials and specific guidelines to promote accurate analysis of iodine levels in addition to un-biased quality assurance.

The CDC recognizes the negative impact of iodine deficiency disorders on communities worldwide and is committed to strengthening the quality control practices of laboratories who measure indices of iodine status. Although CDC is unable to attend this workshop, we wish you great success while discussing measures to strengthen your regional quality assurance and quality control of your laboratory iodine assessments. This program clearly strives to provide an accurate approach to ensure participating regional laboratories practice external quality control to accurately monitor the regions efforts to combat IDD. The Division of Laboratory Sciences, National Center for Environmental Health, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention wish Kazakh Academy of Nutrition (KAN) and all of the workshop participants, much success during the following two days.

We are confident that strong and lasting bonds of collaboration will be forged. Our hope is that this program mirrors the impact of the 1978 Declaration of Alma Ata conference.

Together, UNICEF, CDC, KAN and each of the CEE/CIS regional iodine laboratories will continue to ensure the quality of iodine measurement procedures and to further ensure progress in eliminating iodine deficiency disorders.

Sincerely yours,

**Kathleen L. Caldwell, Ph.D**  
CDC/NCEH/DLS/IRAT  
EQUIP Director