

Quantiferon-TB Gold (QFT) A Challenge For The Laboratory



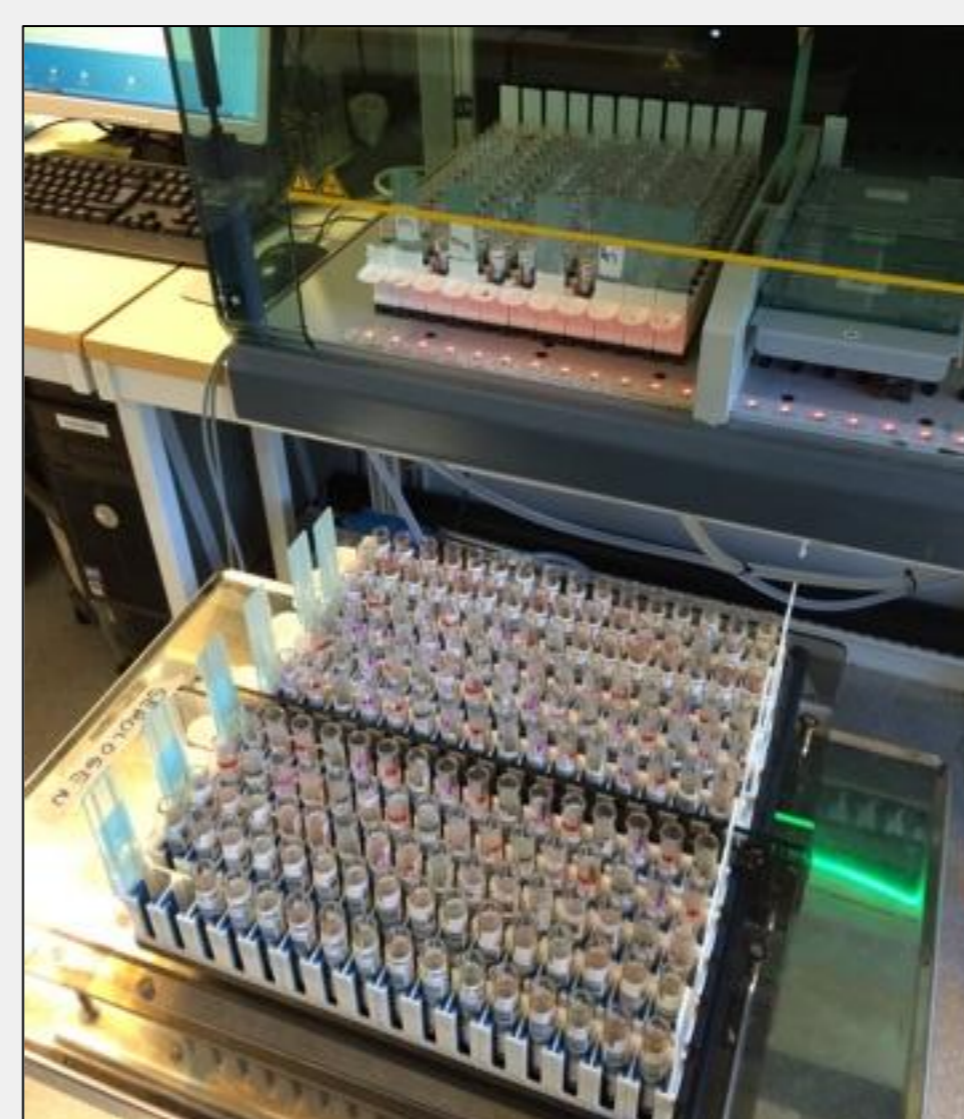
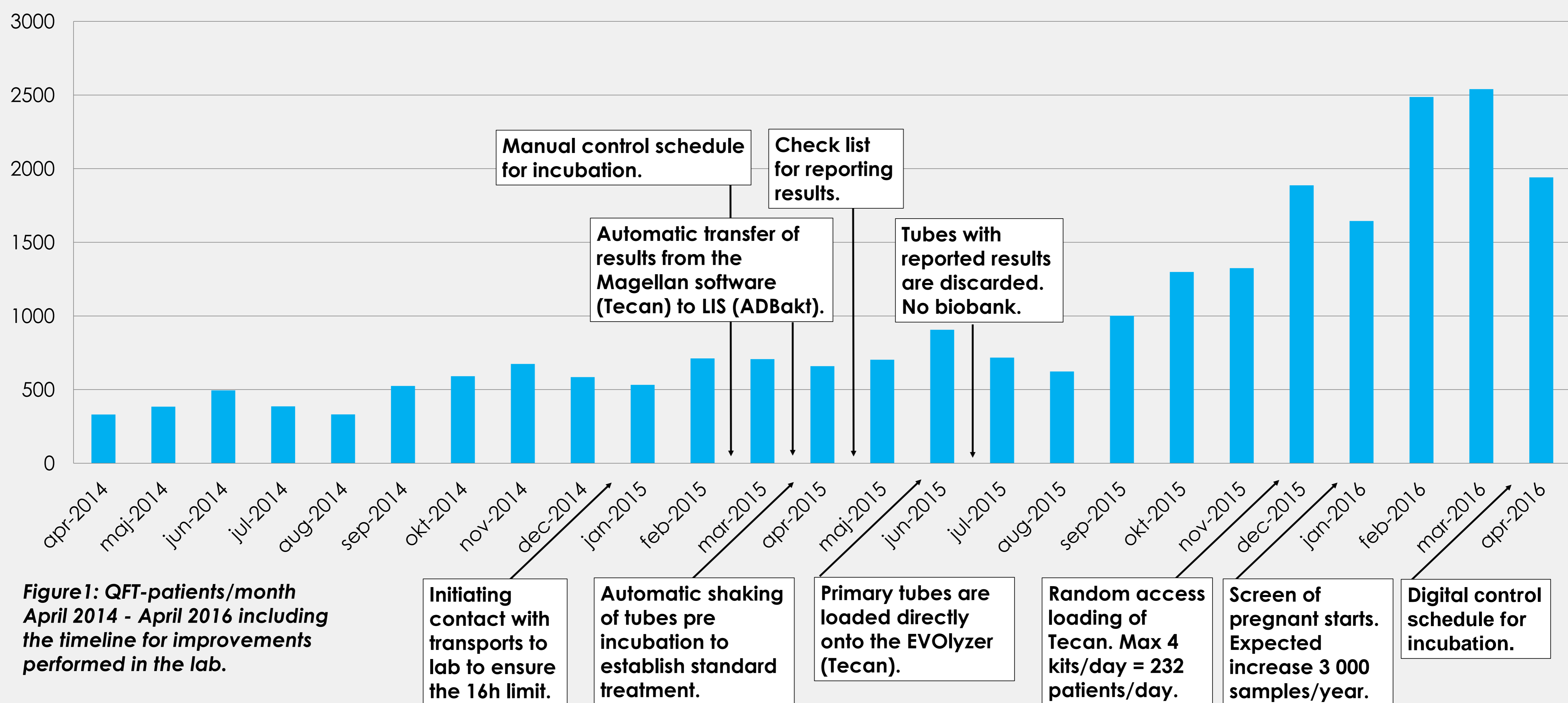
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Introduction

The enormous increase of clinical diagnostics for latent/active tuberculosis (TB) using Quantiferon-TB Gold (QFT, Qiagen) has demanded improvements of our workflow in the lab. During 2015-2016 a large-scale QFT handling in the lab has been established (Figure 1). QFT is based on cell-mediated immune response and monitors interferon gamma (INF- γ) release upon stimulation with TB-specific antigens (ESAT-6, CFP-10, and TB-7.7) in one of the three kit specific tubes. Two tubes are controls (+/-). QFT also known as interferon gamma (IFN- γ) release assay (IGRA) is primarily used to detect latent/active TB in:

- ❖ patients with high risk of exposure
- ❖ refugees, screening in health program (massive increase started in Q4 2015)
- ❖ pregnant women from high endemic countries, screening started in Q1 2016 (estimated increase 3 000 samples/year)
- ❖ patients undergoing immunosuppressive treatments



Ongoing

At present we are preparing for an internal control and the newly launched QFT-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus, Qiagen).