Candidates for the John W. Locke award must meet five of the six following criteria:

- Commitment of their time and services to A2LA towards the advancement of laboratory accreditation (nationally and/or internationally);
- Extensive expertise in their industry, academia and/or service sector;
- Innovative ideas adopted by their industry, academia and/or service sector;
- Demonstrated leadership in their industry, academia and/or service sector (such as standards writing), which made a significant impact on accreditation;
- Achievement of a high degree of respect from their peers; and
- Attainment of an impeccable reputation for statesmanship, diplomacy and fairness.

Based on the criteria listed above, if the recipient of the John W. Locke Award were to retire from their industry, academia and/or service sector, their expertise, leadership and knowledge would become “extinct”. Therefore, this award is affectionately subtitled, “The Dinosaur Award”.

The award this year was given to Dr. Wilson Hershey.

Dr. Hershey is Chairman of the Board of Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories, one of the nation’s largest contract laboratories. With nearly 1400 employees, the company provides analytical services in pharmaceutical and environmental sciences to clients worldwide. Chairman since 2011, and President from 1995-2011, Dr. Hershey recently celebrated his 40th service anniversary. He has published numerous articles on analytical chemistry, laboratory accreditation, and the quality management process. He earned a B.A. in chemistry from Millersville University in 1972, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in analytical chemistry from Villanova University in 1983 and 1985, and an M.B.A. from Villanova University in 1991.

Wilson clearly meets all six of the criteria for the John W. Locke Award and we offer him our heartfelt congratulations on this much-deserved recognition!
General Notices & Press Releases

Assessor Spotlight

Werner Schaefer

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Each year, A2LA presents the “Assessor Choice Award” in recognition of an individual’s skills and contributions as an A2LA assessor. The 2013 Assessor Choice Award was given to Mr. Werner Schaefer.

Education and Career…

Werner received an MSEE in 1982 from Technische Hochschule Darmstadt in Germany and an MBA from Hochschule fuer Berufstaetige in 1990.

Upon completion of his MSEE, he did post-graduate work at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA on a Fulbright Scholarship in the field of IC design. He started his career with Hewlett Packard Company in Germany in 1983 as an RF/microwave systems engineer, focusing on spectrum and network analysis. As of 1985 he became involved in EMC measurements and design. In 1991 he transferred to Hewlett-Packard in Santa Rosa, CA where he held several marketing, R&D and technical contributor positions until 2000. He then joined the Corporate Compliance Center at Cisco Systems in San Jose, CA as a technical contributor and Quality Manager for their accredited test laboratories. As of 2011 he has run his own company, Schaefer Associates, which provides consulting, training, assessment and technical services to testing and calibration laboratories in the RF/microwave, telecom and software testing fields.

Werner also maintains several certifications, licenses and professional memberships. He is a NARTE certified EMC engineer and an RAB RSQ certified quality management system lead auditor. He is also a member of ANSI C63, SC1, SC3 and SC6, Chairman of CISPR/A/WG1, a member of CISPR/A/WG2 and CISPR/B/WG1, a senior member of IEEE EMC Society, a member of ICAC (International Conformity Assessment Committee), a delegate to ISO/CASCO (Conformity Assessment Committee) and a member of ASQ.

Introduction to A2LA…

Werner first became involved with A2LA in 1998 as an assessor in the EMC testing field. For the next few years, he performed assessments for A2LA on a part-time basis and only in the area of EMC testing. Eventually, he also expanded into performing assessments within other technical areas such as RF/microwave calibration, Bluetooth

Continued on page 3
On May 1, 2013, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) granted ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation to Western Slope Laboratory, LLC as part of the A2LA forensic accreditation program. Western Slope Laboratory, LLC performs controlled substances testing and was found, through on-site assessment, to meet ISO/IEC 17025 and the A2LA supplemental requirements found in R221-Specific Requirements: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program - Testing.

Erica A. Guice, M.S., Director of Research & Development at Western Slope Laboratory, commented that: 

The Western Slope Laboratory team takes great pride in having made a true commitment to the provision of quality testing services and even greater pride in having that effort formally recognized via accreditation by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation as having met the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Standard. Being the first forensic drug testing laboratory to be accredited by A2LA gives us further gratification, given A2LA's substantial role in providing world class accreditation services. Western Slope's employees have always been committed to producing the best quality work and this accreditation shows that the years of hard work and dedication were well worth the effort.

A2LA Accredits Forensic Drug Testing Laboratory

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Western Slope Laboratory, LLC becomes the second organization to obtain accreditation specifically as part of the A2LA forensic accreditation program and one of many laboratories accredited by A2LA which perform forensic testing.

In addition to controlled substances testing, A2LA accredited laboratories offer work in such varying fields as: fire debris analysis, ballistics testing, DNA and mitochondrial DNA testing, failure analysis, microbiology, parentage testing, radioactive testing, toxicology and trace analysis.

For additional information regarding the A2LA forensic accreditation program, please see the A2LA forensic program webpage (http://www.a2la.org/appsweb/forensics.cfm) or contact Karin Athanas at 301 644 3236 or kathanas@A2LA.org.
## Fall 2013 Training Schedule

**Course:**

**Title:** Assessment of Laboratory Competence  
- October 21-25, 2013-Dallas, TX  
  ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Internal Auditing  
- November 7-8, 2013-San Diego, CA  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty  
- September 30-October 1, 2013-Detroit/Livonia, MI  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
- November 18-19, 2013-Charlotte, NC  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** ISO 15189:2012 and Medical Laboratory Accreditation  
- TBD ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and Inspection Body Accreditation  
- September 16-17, 2013-Chantilly, VA  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation  
- October 2-4, 2013-Detroit/Livonia, MI  
  ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 A2LA members)  
- November 20-21, 2013-Charlotte, NC  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A 2-DAY COURSE)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17025 for Accredited Laboratories  
- November 6, 2013-San Diego, CA  
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action  
- November 22, 2013-Charlotte, NC  
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Understanding ISO/IEC 17065 Product Certification Accreditation  
- October 3-4, 2013-Chicago, IL  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Venues:**

- September 15-17, 2013-Chantilly, VA (ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and Inspection Body Accreditation)  
  Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles  
  14750 Conference Center Drive  
  Chantilly, VA 20151  
  (703) 818-0300  
  Rate: $159.00 per night (room rate cut off: August 26, 2013)

- September 29-October 4, 2013-Detroit Livonia, MI (Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty, ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation)  
  Marriott Detroit Livonia  
  17100 Laurel Park Drive North  
  Livonia, MI 48152  
  (734) 462-3100  
  Rate: $119.00 per night (room rate cut off: September 9, 2013)

- October 2-4, 2013-Chicago, IL (Understanding 17065:2012 Product Certification Accreditation)  
  Chicago Marriott O’Hare  
  8533 West Higgins Road  
  Chicago, IL 60631  
  (773) 693-4444  
  Rate: $189.00 per night (room rate cut off: September 18, 2013)

- October 20-25, 2013-Dallas TX (Assessment of Laboratory Competence)  
  Sheraton Dallas  
  400 North Olive Street  
  Dallas, TX 75201  
  (214) 922 8000  
  Rate: $139.00 per night (room rate cut off: September 20, 2013)

- November 5-8, 2013 (ISO/IEC 17025 for Accredited Laboratories and Internal Auditing)  
  Courtyard San Diego Downtown  
  530 Broadway Street  
  San Diego, CA 92101  
  (619) 446-3000  
  Rate: $175.00 per night (room rate cut-off: October 6, 2013)

  Renaissance Charlotte SouthPark Hotel  
  5501 Carnegie Blvd  
  Charlotte, NC 28209  
  (704) 501 2510  
  Rate: $162.00 per night (room rate cut off: October 27, 2013)

For additional information, please contact Julie Collins, A2LA Training Manager, at 301 644 3235 or jc@A2LA.org.
New & Updated Documents

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

The following documents have been updated within the controlled A2LA management system. All of these documents are available on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) through the “Search A2LA Site” tool unless otherwise indicated.

- **R203 – Specific Requirements: Competition Animal Drug Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was updated on February 7, 2013.
- **C201 – Specific Checklist: Competition Animal Drug Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was updated on February 7, 2013.
- **C202 – Combined ISO/IEC 17025 and Competition Animal Drug Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was updated on February 7, 2013. This checklist is available by request only.
- **C230 – Specific Checklist: EPA TSCA and FIFRA Good Laboratory Practice** is a new document as of March 13, 2013.
- **I106 – Available Proficiency Testing Programs** was updated on April 12, 2013.
- **P102 – A2LA Policy on Measurement Traceability** was updated on May 9, 2013.
- **R222 – Specific Requirements: EPA ENERGY STAR Accreditation Program** was updated on January 30, 2013.
- **P603e – Annex: Policy on Estimating Uncertainty of Measurement for Medical Testing Labs** was updated on April 12, 2013.
- **R309 - Specific Requirements: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection** was updated on March 25, 2013.
- **C318 – Specific Checklist: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection** was updated on March 25, 2013.
- **C650 – General Checklist: ISO 15189:2012 Medical Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was created on April 12, 2013 and is available by request only. It is currently in transition with the ISO 15189:2007 version of C650 per the C650 - Transition Memorandum.
- **P605 – A2LA Metrological Traceability Policy for Medical Laboratory Testing** is a new document as of April 11, 2013.

If you have any questions about these updates, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or your Accreditation Officer directly.

A2LA Welcomes New Staff

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Since the last issue of A2LA Today, A2LA has welcomed three new staff members.

**Sylvana Ricciarini** was hired as A2LA Director of Government and Global Affairs. Sylvana has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Santo Tomas de Aquino University and an M.S. in Civil Engineering (with a concentration in hydraulic engineering) from Los Andes University – both in Bogota, Columbia. She comes to A2LA with experience in international business and natural hazards risk management, including the areas of building codes and conformity assessment, risk mitigation measures, environmental and natural resources management and business development, having worked with the International Code Council, the Organization of American States and the World Bank.

**Megan Staudenmaier** was hired as an A2LA Accreditation Officer in the life sciences area. Megan has a B.S. in Chemistry and an M.S. in Forensic Science, both from Stevenson University. She comes to A2LA with experience as an intern for the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore, Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. She also worked as a lab technician at St. Thomas University.

**Justin Bradford** was hired as an A2LA Accreditation Officer in the materials testing area. Justin has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Morgan State University. He comes to A2LA with experience as an intern for Baltimore Gas & Electric and as an intern researcher for the Chesapeake Information and Aerospace Consortium. He also worked as a dietary aid at Maryland General Hospital.

We welcome Sylvana, Megan and Justin to the growing A2LA family!

This year’s series of meetings began with the annual ISO/IEC 17025 assessor orientation course from Monday morning through Friday afternoon. Separate assessor orientation courses were also held for ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17020 assessors. A2LA welcomes the new assessors and wishes them luck as they enter the next phase of training by performing conformity assessments.

Ten technical advisory committees (product certification, forensic examination, reference material producer, proficiency testing provider, life sciences, materials testing, electro-mechanical, construction materials, measurement and medical) met throughout the weekend to discuss issues particular to their fields as well as issues common among all disciplines. Separate “breakout meetings” were also held exclusively for construction material & geotechnical assessors as well as for biosafety and calibration assessors.

The annual A2LA banquet was held on Saturday evening. Awards were presented to assessors, Accreditation Council members and Criteria Council members with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30-year service awards. For the first time, A2LA staff were also acknowledged for their milestone years of service. Werner Schaefer received the annual Assessor Choice Award in recognition of his contributions over the past year in support of the Association as an assessor in the areas of Calibration and Testing. Representative of the first laboratory accredited by
A2LA, Wilson Hershey, was honored with the John W. Locke Award (see separate articles in this issue of *A2LA Today*).

Sunday morning began with meetings of the A2LA Criteria Council and Accreditation Council. A separate session for discussions among A2LA staff and our accredited organizations was also held on Sunday morning.

Sunday afternoon was devoted to a meeting of the A2LA Assessor Committee, a plenary session for all attendees and the Annual Meeting of the Members. Chairman of the A2LA Board of Directors, Michael Kesselmayer, offered opening comments. Peter Unger presented the President’s report, and the chairmen of the Criteria Council and Accreditation Council presented reports on the weekend’s activities as well as the general activities of their Councils over the previous year.

A preliminary announcement of the date and venue for the 2014 Technical Forum and Annual Meeting will be made later this year.
A2LA Participates in FDA Food Laboratory Accreditation Workshop

By Sylvana Ricciarini, A2LA Director of Government & Global Affairs

A2LA President/CEO, Peter Unger, participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by FDA on June 5 at the Raleigh Convention Center. With the participation of five other accreditation bodies, the roundtable was a good opportunity to exchange experience about accreditation for food safety testing. Several questions about accreditation were posed by participants who included representatives from public health laboratories of 31 states.

FDA has awarded grants to several state public health laboratories to facilitate attainment of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for food testing by August 31, 2017.

After brief presentations by the accreditation bodies, which included the top ten deficiencies found by A2LA assessors in food labs from 111 recent assessments, the question-and-answer session revealed the many concerns and challenges facing the public health laboratory community in attaining and maintaining accreditation.

The roundtable discussion took place immediately following the 2013 Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Annual Meeting and 7 Government Environmental Laboratory Conference.