Private laboratories role and official food control laboratories

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Changes in the Food Control

• Technology in general and Food Tech in particular.
  – Food has changed more than ever in History.
• International food trade.
  – Consumers are receiving food of new origins.
  – New risks have to be prevented.
Role of Laboratories

• New legal responsibilities for laboratories.
• Accreditation is a new task.
  – Accreditation is the same for all labs.
  – Accreditation bodies in Europe are private entities.
  – Legal regulations oblige voluntary system.
Role of Public Laboratories

- Responsibilities assigned by the Gov.
- Control of internal and external markets.
- Are part of a network.
- Have a more limited budget.
- Slow incorporation of personal.
- Accreditation required legally.
- Difficult cost recovery.
Role of Private Laboratories

- Responsibilities assigned by the market and the Gov.
- Quality Control for the private sector.
- Usually not part of a network.
- Flexible budget.
- Fast incorporation of personal.
- Accreditation conditional.
- Based in profit for sustainability.
Relations between both Sectors

• Some Public laboratories pretend to be private.
• Some Private laboratories pretend to be Public.
• Difficulties in exchange of information.
• Resistance from Public to delegate testing.
• Corporative attitude or scientific reason?
• Accreditation equalizes both.
• Most clinical labs are Private.
• Real needs are not explore instead.
Relations between both Sectors

• Public laboratories as Reference Laboratories.
  – Method Development
  – Method Validation
  – Proficiency Testing
  – Training
  – Quality Control Materials

• Accreditation criteria.