

NISTIR 8169

**NIST/NIH Vitamin D Metabolites
Quality Assurance Program Report of
Participant Results: Summer 2016
Comparability Study
(Exercise 12)**

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ABSTRACT

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) established the Vitamin D Metabolites Quality Assurance Program (VitDQAP) in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Dietary Supplements in 2009. Participants in the twelfth and final exercise of this program, the Summer 2016 Comparability Study, were asked to use the methodology of their choice to measure concentrations of 25-hydroxyvitamin D in pooled human serum control and study materials distributed by NIST. The study materials consisted of candidate SRM 968f Fat-Soluble Vitamins in Human Serum, Level 1 (SRM 968f L1), and Level 2 (SRM 968f L2). Standard Reference Material (SRM) 968d Fat-Soluble Vitamins, Carotenoids, and Cholesterol in Human Serum Level 1 was provided as a control material. Participants provided their data to NIST, where it was compiled and evaluated for trueness relative to the NIST value and concordance within the participant community. A report of results was provided to all participants of the study, and laboratories were identified by code numbers known only to them. The results from this twelfth study are reported along with a summary of the analytical methods used.

**NIST/NIH VITAMIN D METABOLITES QUALITY ASSURANCE
PROGRAM
REPORT OF PARTICIPANT RESULTS
SUMMER 2016 COMPARABILITY STUDY: EXERCISE 12**

OVERVIEW OF THE SUMMER 2016 STUDY

For the Summer 2016 comparability study of the collaborative National Institute of Standards and Technology and National Institutes of Health (NIST/NIH) Vitamin D Metabolites Quality Assurance Program (VitDQAP), human serum control and study materials were distributed to participants for evaluation. Standard Reference Material (SRM) 968d Fat-Soluble Vitamins, Carotenoids, and Cholesterol in Human Serum Level 1 (SRM 968d L1) was provided as a control material for assay validation. For SRM 968d L1 (Control), the participants were provided the NIST target values within the data reporting sheet so that they could qualify their methods prior to analyzing the study samples. The study materials consisted of two vials, each containing a sample of pooled human serum. In this study, Vial A and Vial B were candidate SRM 968f Fat-Soluble Vitamins in Human Serum, Level 1 (SRM 968f L1), and Level 2 (SRM 968f L2), respectively, both of which contain endogenous levels of the vitamin D metabolites. Participants were asked to determine 25-hydroxyvitamin D in each of the human serum control and study samples. Individual concentration values for 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ (25(OH)D₃), 25-hydroxyvitamin D₂ (25(OH)D₂), and 3-epi-25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ (3-epi-25(OH)D₃) were requested along with a total concentration of 25-hydroxyvitamin D: $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_{\text{Total}} = 25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2 + 25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$.

There were 36 participants and 38 datasets (2 participants, Labs 056 and 214, provided data from two methods) in the Summer 2016 comparability study. Eight (8) of the datasets originated from immunoassay (IA) techniques, including six (6) from chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA), and two from enzyme immunoassay (EIA). **Appendix A-1** summarizes the IA methods used by the participants. Thirty (30) of the datasets originated from liquid chromatographic (LC) methods; of those, 28 were from LC with tandem mass spectrometric detection (LC-MS/MS), and two (2) were from LC with ultraviolet absorbance detection (LC-UV). The LC-MS/MS methods are referred to as LC-MSⁿ. A summary of the LC MSⁿ and LC-UV methods used by the participants may be found in **Appendices A-2** and **A-3**, respectively. Note: The methodological information provided on the data reporting sheet was used to update the list from previous comparability studies. For participants that did not provide method details for the Summer 2016 study, the information in the appendices were not edited and may not be current.

The raw data received from all participants for the control and study materials are summarized in **Appendix B**. IA methods do not distinguish between 25(OH)D₃ and 25(OH)₂ and are purported not to detect endogenous 3-epi-25(OH)D₃. Therefore, IA participants reported single values for 25(OH)D_{Total}. In contrast, the LC methods can separate the vitamin D metabolites. All LC participants reported values for 25(OH)D_{Total}, 29 participants reported values for 25(OH)D₃, nine (9) LC participants reported results

for 25(OH)D₂, and six (6) participants reported results for 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ in at least one of the control and study materials. One (1) participant also reported values for 24(R), 25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (24(R),25(OH)₂D₃) and vitamin D₃, which are not represented in **Appendix B**.

Appendix B also provides the summarized NIST results for each of the serum materials. A detailed description of the NIST methods is provided in the next section of this report.

SUMMARY OF NIST METHOD USED TO EVALUATE THE CONTROL AND STUDY MATERIALS

NIST used isotope dilution LC-MS/MS (ID-LC-MS/MS) [1] to determine the vitamin D metabolites (25(OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₂, and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃) in the control and study materials evaluated in this comparability study. The ID-LC-MS/MS approach is a reference measurement procedure (RMP) for 25(OH)D₃ and 25(OH)D₂ that is recognized by the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM).

The NIST values for 25(OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₂, and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) are reported with approximate 95 % expanded uncertainties (*U*) that incorporate components for measurement variability and measurement uncertainty associated with the density of the materials and the purity of the reference standards. In addition, the measurements include a 1 % type B uncertainty for unknown systematic errors, which is consistent with the practice used at NIST for clinical measurements [1]. For SRM 968d L1 (Control), the NIST values for 25(OH)D₃ and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ are reported as described for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), but the value for 25(OH)D₂ was estimated to be 0.1 ng/mL.

The values for 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control) are the sum of the individual values for 25(OH)D₃ and 25(OH)D₂, and the expanded uncertainty incorporates measurement uncertainties for the two analytes.

¹ Tai, S. S.-C.; Bedner, M.; Phinney, K.W.; *Anal. Chem.* **2010** 82, 1942-1948.

SUMMER 2016 COMPARABILITY STUDY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results for 25(OH)D_{Total}

A summary of the individual participant data for total 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D_{Total}) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control) is provided in **Table 1**.

The community results are summarized at the bottom of **Table 1** for all reported methods, the IA methods only, the LC methods only, and the LC-MSⁿ methods only. The community results include the total number of quantitative values reported (*N*); the median value; the median absolute deviation from the median (MADe), a robust estimate of the standard deviation; and the percent coefficient of variation (CV %).

Table 1 also presents the NIST results for 25(OH)D_{Total} in the control and the two study materials.

Table 1. Summary of participant data for 25(OH)D_{Total} (ng/mL) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

		SRM 968f L1	SRM 968f L2	SRM 968d L1
		Vial A	Vial B	Control
026	LC-MS/MS	14.5	15.9	12.8
030b	LC-MS/MS	21.0	21.8	12.5
056a	LC-MS/MS	13.1	17.2	12.0
056b	LC-MS/MS	13.9	16.8	12.9
060	LC-MS/MS	13.9	18.6	12.7
110	LC-UV	13.0	18.4	12.5
116	LC-MS/MS	14.8	17.6	13.9
127	EIA	21.8	21.0	18.6
150	LC-MS/MS	13.0	17.0	13.0
161b	LC-MS/MS	10.8	16.6	13.5
188	CLIA	17.5	14.5	12.5
194	LC-MS/MS	14.6	16.4	14.1
196	CLIA	18.8	16.9	14.6
197	LC-MS/MS	12.7	17.7	12.3
199	LC-MS/MS	13.4	16.7	13.1
204b	LC-MS/MS	12.6	16.2	12.4
209	LC-MS/MS	14.6	20.1	11.8
211	LC-MS/MS	13.0	19.0	13.1
214b	CLIA	18.5	15.0	17.2
214c	LC-MS/MS	13.3	16.4	12.7
215	LC-MS/MS	12.8	17.2	12.8
216	LC-MS/MS	13.7	16.8	12.7
217	LC-MS/MS	16.0	20.8	18.4
218a	CLIA	12.4	14.2	16.5
221b	LC-UV	14.0	18.0	19.0
225	LC-MS/MS	13.7	16.6	12.7
228a	LC-MS/MS	13.2	15.8	12.4
241	LC-MS/MS	14.0	17.4	13.0
244	LC-MS/MS	12.3	15.6	12.7
249	LC-MS/MS	12.7	18.0	13.3
251	LC-MS/MS	16.0	20.0	n/r
255	LC-MS/MS	15.3	17.4	13.6
256	CLIA	19.3	15.2	12.4
259	LC-MS/MS	11.4	13.5	13.2
261	CLIA	19.2	35.9	13.5
271	LC-MS/MS	16.7	22.1	15.2
272	LC-MS/MS	13.6	16.8	12.6
273	EIA	18.6	18.1	15.1
All methods	<i>N</i>	38	38	37
	Median	13.9	17.1	13.0
	MADe	1.7	1.4	0.8
	CV%	12	8.3	6.1
IA methods	<i>N</i>	8	8	8
	Median	18.7	16.1	14.9
	MADe	0.8	2.5	3.0
	CV%	4.4	16	20
LC methods	<i>N</i>	30	30	29
	Median	13.6	17.2	12.8
	MADe	1.3	1.2	0.4
	CV%	9.2	6.9	3.5
LC-MS ⁿ	<i>N</i>	28	28	27
	Median	13.6	17.1	12.8
	MADe	1.3	1.0	0.4
	CV%	9.8	6.0	3.5
NIST Value		13.2	15.8	12.5
<i>U</i>		0.5	0.5	0.4

n/r = not reported or not determined

For all participant datasets, the single reported values for 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control) are plotted in **Figure 1**, **Figure 2**, and **Figure 3**, respectively. The results from immunoassay methods are displayed with open dark blue circles (○), and the results from the LC-based methods are displayed with open light blue circles (◐). The results from the individual methods (CLIA, EIA, LC-MSⁿ, and LC-UV) were sorted from the lowest to the highest value and are plotted separately, as roughly indicated by the x-axis labels. **Table 1** should be cross-referenced to verify which methods correspond with which participant numbers.

From the single reported values for all datasets for a given technique (IA or LC), the consensus median and the consensus expanded uncertainty ($2 \times \text{MADe}$) were determined. For both of the major techniques (IA or LC) in each figure, the solid lines (—) and (—) represent the consensus median, and the dashed lines (- - - -) and (- - - -) represent the consensus expanded uncertainty interval (median $\pm 2 \times \text{MADe}$). The laboratories with results that fall between the two dashed lines are within the consensus range for their technique (IA or LC).

The red lines (—) in each figure (**Figures 1 – 3**) represent the NIST value and its associated uncertainty (i.e., value $\pm U$). NIST has confidence that the “true” value for each material lies within this interval. When these lines are not within the consensus ranges for each technique (IA or LC), then there may be method bias.

Specific results for each of the three study materials are summarized below. Note that the assessment is based on the actual reported values, not the lines and symbols, which have been enlarged to show detail and the laboratory number.

SRM 968f L1 (Vial A): Figure 1

- For the IA results, two reported values are outside of the consensus range (one CLIA, one EIA).
- For the LC results, three reported values are outside of the consensus range (all LC-MSⁿ).
- The consensus median value and range for the IA results are significantly higher than both the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines) and the LC consensus range.
- The consensus median value for the LC results is comparable to the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines).

SRM 968f L2 (Vial B): Figure 2

- For the IA results, the data appear to be non-normally distributed, and the consensus variability is not well-described by the MADe estimation; however, one CLIA result is outside the consensus range.
- For the LC results, six LC-MSⁿ values are outside the consensus range (all LC-MSⁿ).

- The consensus median value for the IA results is comparable with the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines).
- The consensus median value for the LC results is higher than the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines).
- The NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines) falls within the consensus range for both IA and LC.

SRM 968d L1 (Control): Figure 3

- The IA results appear to be non-normally distributed, and the consensus variability is not well-described by the MADe estimation but includes all of the IA data.
- For the LC results, six reported values are outside of the consensus range (five LC-MSⁿ, one LC-UV).
- The consensus median value for the IA results is higher than the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines).
- The consensus median value for the LC results is comparable to the NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines).
- The NIST expanded uncertainty range (red lines) falls within the consensus range for both IA and LC.

Figure 1. Participant results for 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) as determined by immunoassay (CLIA and EIA) and LC (LC-MSⁿ and LC-UV) methods.

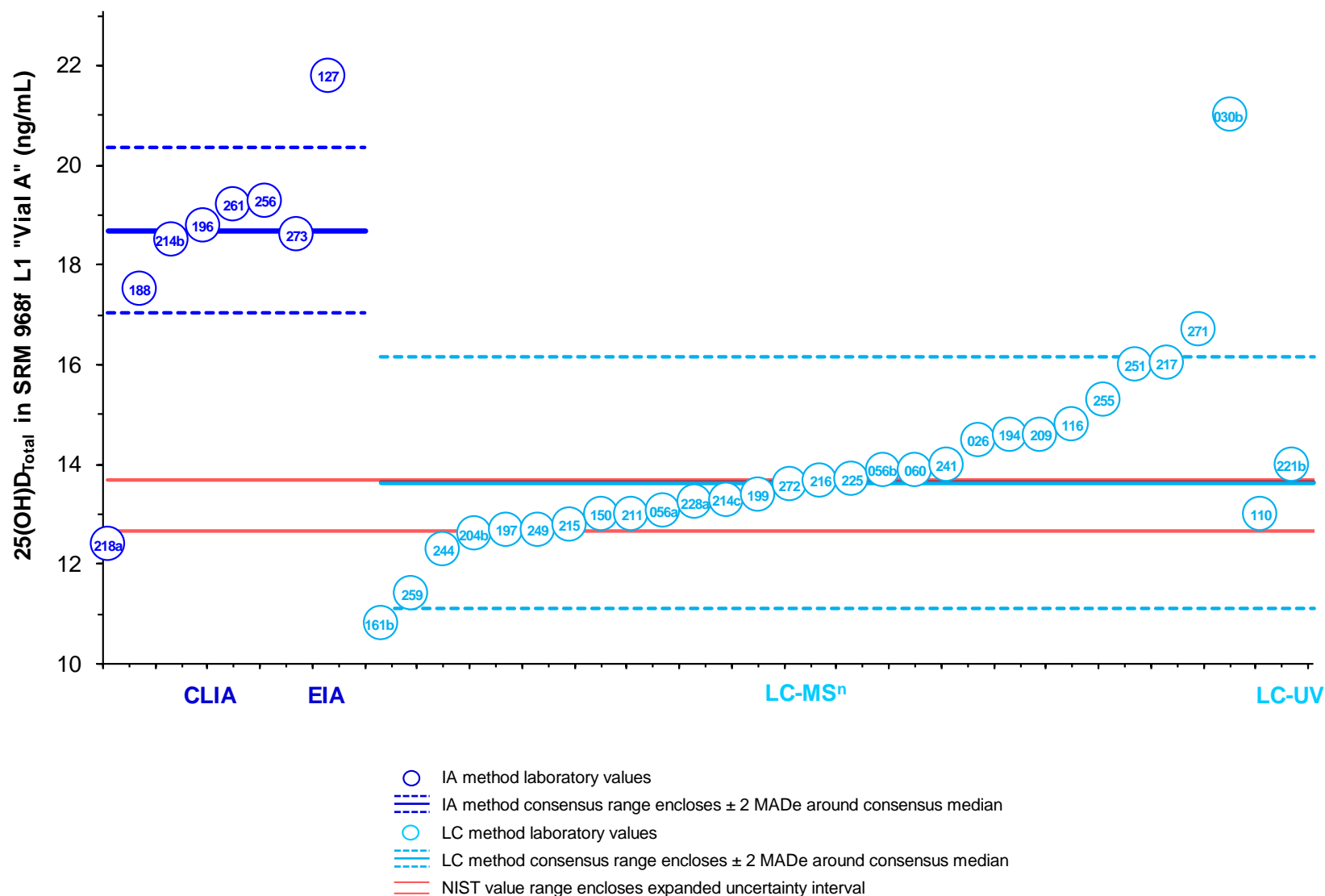


Figure 2. Participant results for 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) as determined by immunoassay (CLIA and EIA) and LC (LC-MSⁿ and LC-UV) methods.

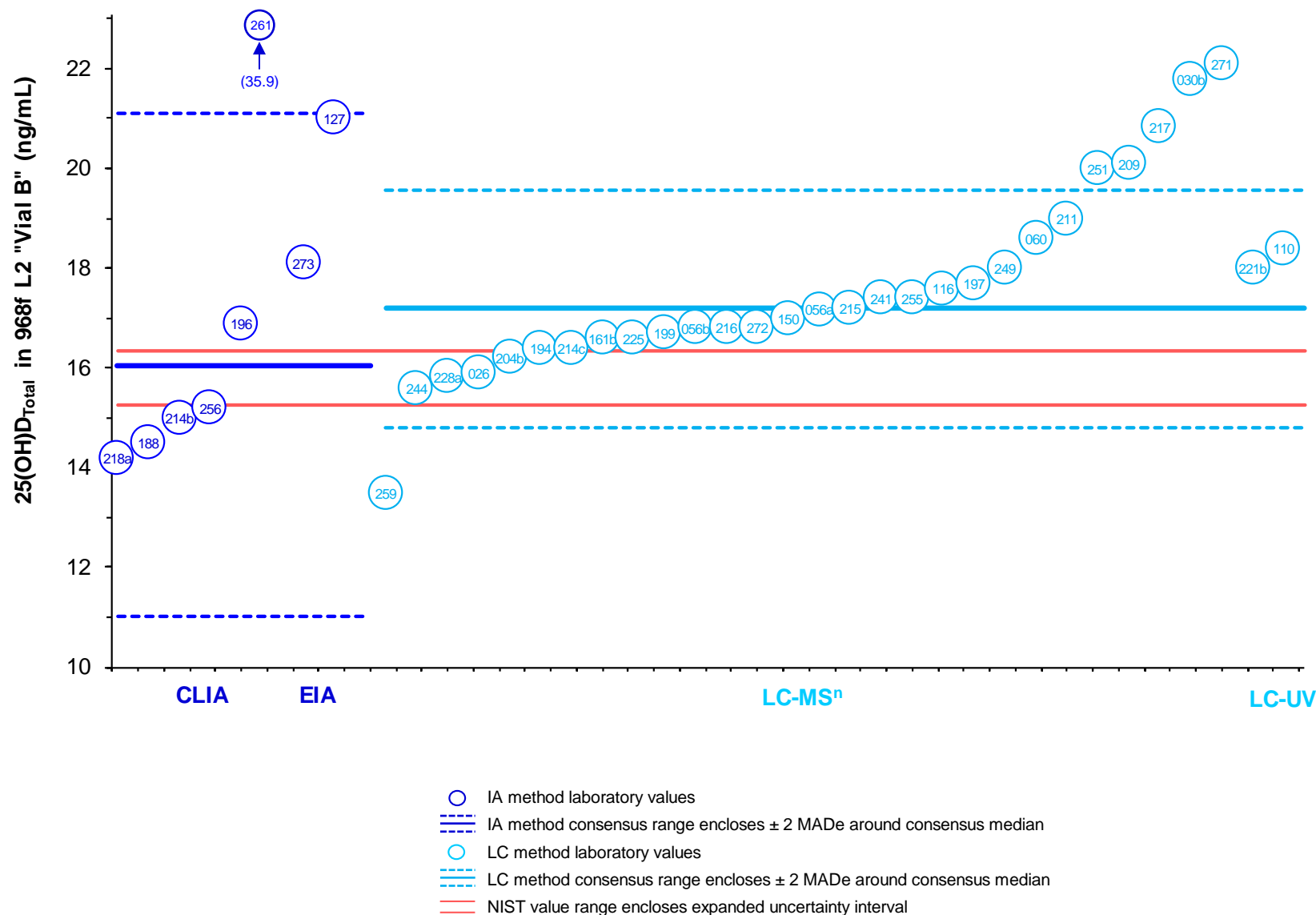


Figure 3. Participant results for 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968d Level 1 (Control) as determined by immunoassay (CLIA and EIA) and LC (LC-MSⁿ and LC-UV) methods.

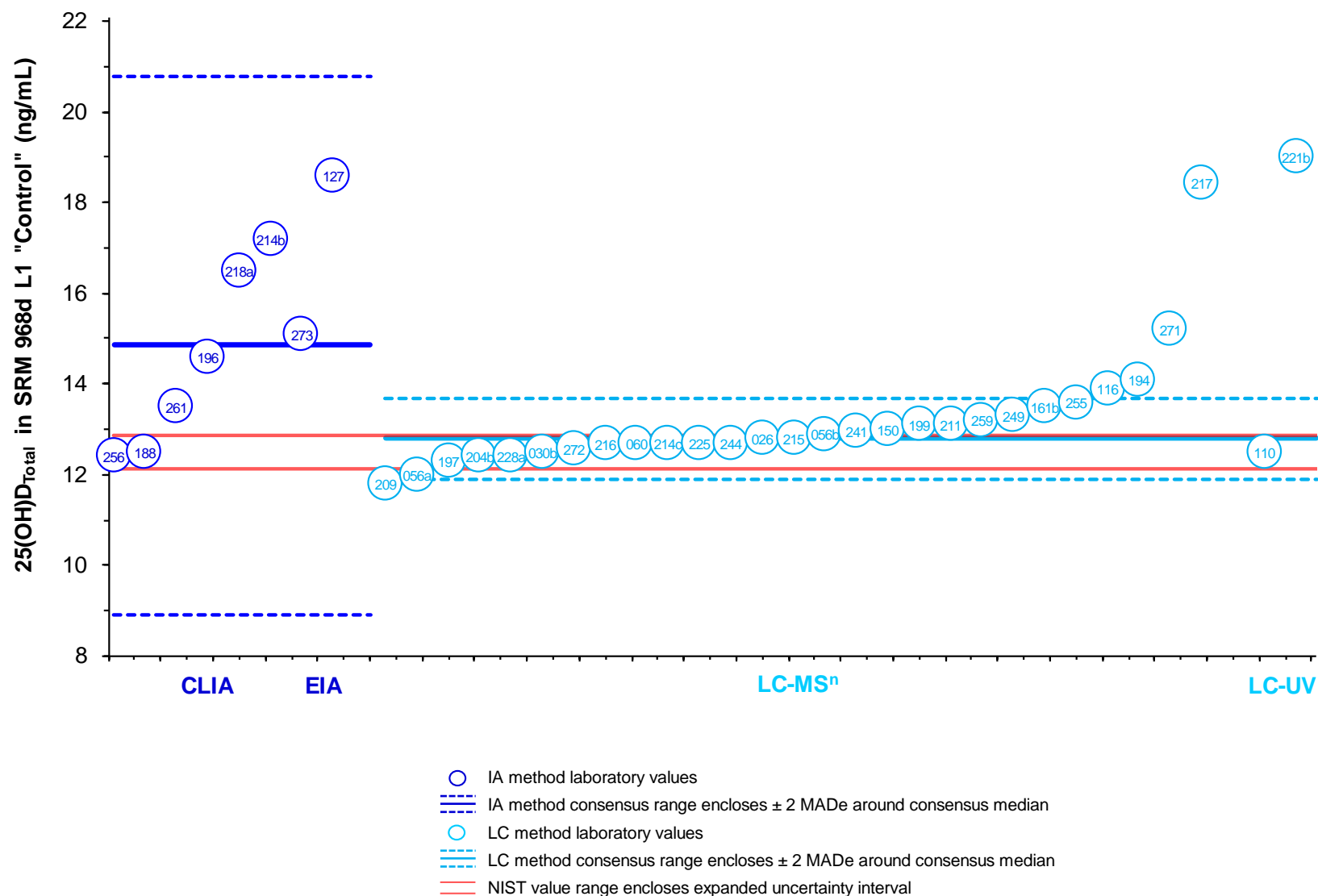


Figure 4 presents direct graphical comparisons of the 25(OH)D_{Total} results for a) SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and b) SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control). In each plot, there are two blue consensus boxes, one for IA methods and one for LC methods (as indicated). Laboratory results that are within the consensus range for both study materials are within the blue consensus boxes. Conversely, laboratory results that fall outside of (or on the edge of) either of the consensus boxes are not included in the consensus ranges for their technique and are highlighted with their laboratory code numbers. In each plot, the NIST values for the materials are denoted with a red diamond symbol (◆), and the Youden line ($y = x$) centered on the NIST value is illustrated by a red line (—) across the magnitude of the y-axis and x-axis, respectively.

Specific results as assessed from the Youden comparison plots are summarized below.

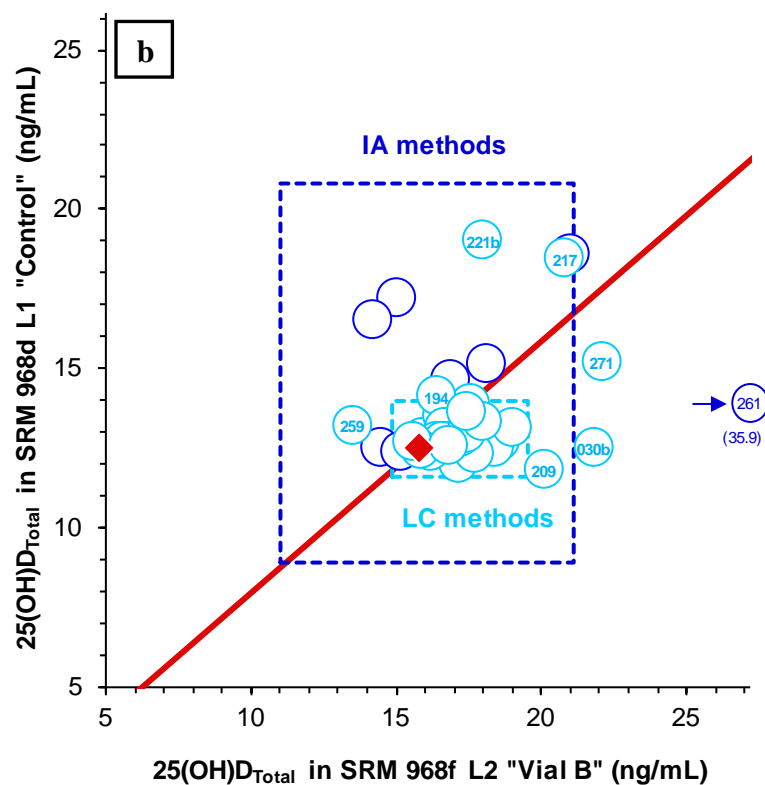
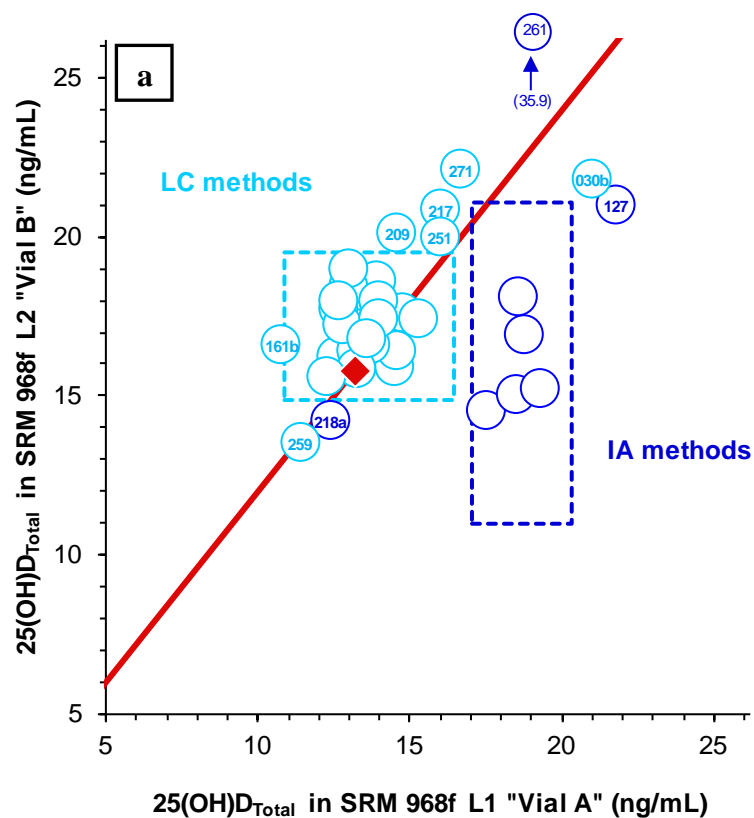
SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B): Figure 4 a

- IA results that are not included in the consensus ranges include: 127, 218a, and 261.
- LC results that are not included in the consensus ranges include: 030b, 161b, 209, 217, 251, 259, and 271.
- The Youden line runs through the center of the LC consensus box, illustrating that the LC results are in agreement generally with each other and with the NIST results for these materials.
- The linear trend of the LC data (results closely aligned with the Youden line) indicates participant-specific analytical bias.
- The Youden line barely intercepts the upper left-hand corner of the IA consensus box, illustrating the bias of the IA results for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A).

SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control): Figure 4 b

- The consensus box for the IA results is extremely large for these two materials, which hinders an assessment of the agreement with the Youden line or of the identification of outliers; however, the result for lab 261 is well outside of the consensus range.
- LC results that are not included in the consensus ranges include numbers 030b, 194, 209, 217, 221b, 259, and 271.
- The Youden line runs through the left side of the LC consensus box, illustrating the slight positive bias of the LC results for both of these materials.
- The lack of strong linear trend (for the LC results) suggests either significant differences between SRM 968d L1 (Control) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) or the ‘attractor’ effect of participants knowing the correct value for the control.

Figure 4. Youden comparison plot of the results for $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_{\text{Total}}$ in a) SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and b) SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control) for all methods.



Discussion of Results for 25(OH)D_{Total}

The Summer 2016 comparability study was the first to utilize the candidate SRM 968f study materials, both of which contain endogenous levels of the vitamin D metabolites. Furthermore, SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control) contain predominantly 25(OH)D₃ as the metabolite contributing to 25(OH)D_{Total}, and all three contain relatively comparable and low concentrations of 25(OH)D_{Total} based on the NIST values (value $\pm U$) of 13.2 ng/mL \pm 0.5 ng/mL, 15.8 ng/mL \pm 0.5 ng/mL, and 12.5 ng/mL \pm 0.4 ng/mL, respectively.

The all-method CV %'s of 12 %, 8.3 %, and 6.1 % for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and (Control), respectively, are consistent with participant performance for other materials containing predominantly 25(OH)D₃ that were evaluated in previous comparability studies of the VitDQAP. While the CV % provides information about the comparability of the reported results to each other, it does not indicate the bias of the results relative to each of the two major techniques (IA or LC) or to the NIST values.

The IA median value for the SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) study material (with its expanded uncertainty $\pm 2 \times \text{MADE}$) of 18.7 ng/mL \pm 1.6 ng/mL is biased high relative to both the expanded LC median value of 13.6 ng/mL \pm 2.6 ng/mL and the NIST value of 13.2 ng/mL \pm 0.5 ng/mL; this represents a high bias of approximately 42 % relative to the NIST value. Additionally, there is no overlap in the expanded uncertainty range for the reported IA methods and the LC and NIST results for this material, as evident in **Figure 1** and **Figure 4a**. Interestingly, SRM 968d L1 (Control) contains very similar levels of 25(OH)D_{Total} to SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), but the median IA result of 14.9 ng/mL \pm 6.0 ng/mL is biased less, or approximately 19 % higher than the NIST value (**Figure 3**) of 12.5 ng/mL \pm 0.4 ng/mL for this material. Lastly, the IA median result agrees generally with the NIST result for SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), as shown in **Figure 2**.

The LC median result of 17.2 ng/mL \pm 2.4 ng/mL for the SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) study material is somewhat high relative to the NIST result of 15.8 ng/mL \pm 0.5 ng/mL, representing a bias of approximately 9 %. Conversely, the LC median results agree with the NIST results for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968d L1 (Control) (**Figure 1** and **Figure 3**, respectively).

Given the similarity of the concentrations of 25(OH)D_{Total} in the three materials, it would be expected that the measurement trends would be the same for each technique if the same sample preparation, instrumental methods, and calibrants were used by each laboratory for all samples. The material-specific trends, which are particularly notable for the IA results, indicate that there are notable differences in the materials (i.e., matrix effects) influencing the results, or that measurements using these methods are not well-controlled at low 25(OH)D_{Total} levels due to factors such as differences in binding or non-linear behavior. The last factor that blurs an assessment of trends is that both LC and IA provided more accurate results for the control material than for the study samples, even though the levels are comparable in all three materials. We term this the 'attractor effect' of knowing the correct answer for SRM 968d L1 (Control).

LC Results for the Individual Metabolites

Of the two major techniques IA and LC, only the LC methods can independently measure the individual metabolites 25(OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₂, and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃. In the Summer 2016 comparability study of the VitDQAP, the study materials and the control contained low albeit detectable amounts of the 25(OH)D₂ and the 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ metabolites. Of these two metabolites, only 25(OH)D₂ is included as a component in the 25(OH)D_{Total} values.

The non-zero study results and the NIST values for 25(OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₂, and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ for the study materials and the control are presented in **Table 2**, **Table 3**, and **Table 4**, respectively.

All the participating LC labs reported results for 25(OH)D₃ (**Table 2**), the primary metabolite contributing to 25(OH)D_{Total}. The community results for 25(OH)D₃ displayed at the bottom of **Table 2** exhibit higher variability for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A; CV % \cong 11 %) than for SRM 968f L2 (Vial B) and SRM 968d L1 (Control), which both have a CV % \leq 7 %. The median values for 25(OH)D₃ agree well with the NIST values for SRM 968f L1 (Vial A) and SRM 968d L1 (Control), but exhibit a slight high bias for SRM 968f L2 (Vial B).

Six (6) labs reported results for both 25(OH)D₂ and 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ (labs 026, 056a, 060, 216, 241, and 272) and 6 additional labs (056b, 150, 214c, 228a, 249, and 255) reported results for one of the two metabolites in at least one of the study materials or the control (**Table 3** and **Table 4**). Given the low concentrations of the 25(OH)D₂ and the 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ metabolites in the study samples and the control, the variability of the results is much higher although the median values agree relatively well with the NIST values.

Table 2. Summary of LC participant and NIST results for 25(OH)D₃ (ng/mL) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

		SRM 968f L1	SRM 968f L2	SRM 968d L1
Lab	Method	Vial A	Vial B	Control
026	LC-MS/MS	13.7	15.7	12.6
030b	LC-MS/MS	21.0	21.8	12.5
056a	LC-MS/MS	12.0	16.6	11.4
056b	LC-MS/MS	12.9	16.8	12.9
060	LC-MS/MS	12.9	18.3	12.6
116	LC-MS/MS	14.8	17.6	13.9
150	LC-MS/MS	13.0	17.0	13.0
161b	LC-MS/MS	10.8	16.6	13.5
194	LC-MS/MS	14.6	16.4	14.1
197	LC-MS/MS	12.7	17.7	12.3
199	LC-MS/MS	13.4	16.7	13.1
204b	LC-MS/MS	12.6	16.2	12.4
209	LC-MS/MS	14.6	20.1	11.8
211	LC-MS/MS	13.0	19.0	13.1
214c	LC-MS/MS	12.4	16.4	12.7
215	LC-MS/MS	12.8	17.2	12.8
216	LC-MS/MS	12.8	16.6	12.5
217	LC-MS/MS	16.0	20.8	18.4
221b	LC-UV	14.0	18.0	19.0
225	LC-MS/MS	13.7	16.6	12.7
228a	LC-MS/MS	13.2	15.8	12.4
241	LC-MS/MS	12.5	17.4	12.9
244	LC-MS/MS	12.3	15.6	12.7
249	LC-MS/MS	12.7	18.0	13.3
251	LC-MS/MS	16.0	20.0	n/r
255	LC-MS/MS	14.5	17.4	13.6
259	LC-MS/MS	11.4	13.5	13.2
271	LC-MS/MS	12.7	18.1	11.2
272	LC-MS/MS	12.4	16.4	12.3
LC methods	<i>N</i>	29	29	28
	Median	12.9	17.0	12.8
	MADe	1.5	1.2	0.5
	CV%	11.5	7.0	4.1
LC-MS ⁿ	<i>N</i>	28	28	27
	Median	12.9	16.9	12.7
	MADe	1.3	1.0	0.4
	CV%	10.4	6.1	3.5
NIST Value		12.3	15.6	12.4
<i>U</i>		0.5	0.5	0.4

n/r = not reported or not determined

Table 3. Summary of LC participant and NIST results for 25(OH)D₂ (ng/mL) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

		SRM 968f L1	SRM 968f L2	SRM 968d L1
Lab	Method	Vial A	Vial B	Control
026	LC-MS/MS	0.81	0.20	0.18
056a	LC-MS/MS	1.1	0.6	0.6
056b	LC-MS/MS	1.0	<0.6	<0.6
060	LC-MS/MS	1.0	0.28	0.091
214c	LC-MS/MS	0.9	<0.5	<0.5
216	LC-MS/MS	0.90	0.23	0.18
241	LC-MS/MS	1.5	0.0	0.06
255	LC-MS/MS	0.8	0.0	0.0
272	LC-MS/MS	1.2	0.41	0.24
LC-MS ⁿ	<i>N</i>	9	7	7
	Median	1.0	0.23	0.18
	MADe	0.15	0.27	0.13
	CV%	15	116	73
NIST Value		0.85	0.17	0.1*
<i>U</i>		0.06	0.02	---

*estimated value

Table 4. Summary of LC participant and NIST results for 3-epi-25(OH)D₃ (ng/mL) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

		SRM 968f L1	SRM 968f L2	SRM 968d L1
Lab	Method	Vial A	Vial B	Control
026	LC-MS/MS	0.59	0.84	0.65
056a	LC-MS/MS	0.76	0.46	0.46
060	LC-MS/MS	0.57	0.88	0.54
150	LC-MS/MS	1.0	1.0	1.0
216	LC-MS/MS	0.58	0.50	0.67
228a	LC-MS/MS	0.24	0.46	0.65
241	LC-MS/MS	0.0	1.03	0.65
249	LC-MS/MS	0.70	0.70	0.71
272	LC-MS/MS	0.42	0.37	0.36
LC-MS ⁿ	<i>N</i>	9	9	9
	Median	0.58	0.70	0.65
	MADe	0.24	0.35	0.09
	CV%	42	50	14
NIST Value		0.72	1.1	0.65
<i>U</i>		0.07	0.1	0.03

Summer 2016 is the third comparability study in which a participant reported results for at least one of the dihydroxy metabolites, 24(R),25(OH)₂D₃, and the first study in which a participant reported results for vitamin D₃ in each of the study materials. The results provided by participant 60 for these compounds are presented in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Lab 60's LC-MS/MS results for 24(R),25(OH)₂D₃ and vitamin D₃ (ng/mL) in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

	24(R),25(OH)₂D₃ (ng/mL)	Vitamin D₃ (ng/mL)
SRM 968f L1 (Vial A)	0.668	1.21
SRM 968f L2 (Vial B)	0.759	2.61
SRM 968d L1 (Control)	0.505	0.831

NIST has developed a candidate RMP for the determination of 24(R),25(OH)₂D₃ and has assigned reference values for this metabolite in SRM 972a Vitamin D Metabolites in Frozen Human Serum and SRM 2973 Vitamin D Metabolites in Frozen Human Serum (High Level). However, NIST is not providing values for 24(R),25(OH)₂D₃ for the VitDQAP study materials at this time. Furthermore, NIST does not currently have any clinical materials that have been assigned vitamin D₃ values.

Appendix A-1. Summary of immunoassay methods as reported by the study participants.

<i>Laboratory Number</i>	<i>IA Method</i>	<i>Vendor/kit*</i>
127	EIA	A
188	CLIA	B
196	CLIA	C
214b	CLIA	D
218a	CLIA	C
256	CLIA	C
261	CLIA	E
273	EIA	n/r

*NIST cannot endorse or recommend commercial products,
therefore individual vendors/kits are indicated with a unique
letter but not identified

Appendix A-2. Summary of LC-MSⁿ methods as reported by the study participants.

Laboratory Number	Internal Standard (IS)	Sample Preparation	Chromatographic Conditions	Detection: MRM ions
26	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₆ and 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Liquid-liquid extraction method	PFP column (100 mm × 3.2 mm); isocratic elution with 82 % methanol/18 % water; flow 0.4 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/365; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/355; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ 401/365
30b	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Samples were prepared with disposable pipette extraction	C18 column; isocratic elution with 85 % acetonitrile/15 % methanol; flow 0.5 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 383/211
56a	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ ; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ ; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃	Samples were extracted with hexane, evaporated, then reconstituted with 72 % methanol/28 % water	PFP column (150 mm × 2.1 mm; 2.7 μm); isocratic elution with 72 % methanol/ 28 % water; flow 0.35 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 383/365; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/371; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/377; 25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ 398/380; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ 383/365; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃ 386/368
56b	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
60	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃ 24,25(OH) ₂ D ₃ -d ₆	IS was added, and then samples were extracted with acetonitrile, evaporated, and reconstituted with injection solvent	PFP column (100 mm × 3.0 mm; 2.6 μm); gradient with water, methanol and acetonitrile (0.05 % formic acid)	25(OH)D ₃ 383/211; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/211; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/355; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ 401/383
116	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Serum proteins were precipitated with methanol	Online SPE; reversed-phase column; isocratic elution with 95 % methanol/5 % water; flow 0.6 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 383/211; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/211; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/269
150	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₆ and 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃	Sample (200 μL) was mixed with IS solution, liquid-liquid extracted, centrifuged, supernatant evaporated, and reconstituted in mobile phase	PFP column (100 mm × 3.0 mm; 2.6 μm); isocratic separation with 74 % methanol/26 % water (2 mmol/L ammonium acetate, 0.1 % formic acid); flow 0.5 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 383/257, 401/365; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/355, 395/269
161b	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein precipitation	Reversed-phase column (50 mm × 2.1 mm; 2.6 μm); gradient with methanol and water (0.1 % formic acid); flow 0.5 mL/min	APCI
194	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein crash followed by evaporation and reconstitution	Reversed-phase column (50 mm × 2.1 mm)	25(OH)D ₂ 395/119; 25(OH)D ₃ 383/211
197	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Precipitating agent added (200 μL with 20 ng IS) to each serum sample (200 μL), calibrator and control sample followed by mixing, centrifugation, and analysis	C18 column (50 mm × 4.6 mm; 5 μm); column temp 45 °C; gradient with water and methanol (0.1 % formic acid); flow 1.0 mL/min	n/r
199	proprietary	proprietary	proprietary	proprietary
204b	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ ; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ ; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃	Protein crash with 73 % methanol followed by liquid-liquid extraction with hexane, centrifugation, evaporation, and reconstitution in mobile phase	PFP column (100 mm × 2.1 mm; 1.9 μm); column temperature 30 °C; isocratic elution with 73 % methanol/27 % water; flow 0.35 mL/min	APCI 25(OH)D ₃ 383/365, 383/257; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/377, 395/209; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ 383/365, 383/257

209	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Proteins were precipitated with 5 % ZnSO ₄ in 95 % methanol	C8 column (50 mm x 2 mm; 5 µm); gradient with water/methanol; flow 0.7 mL/min	APCI 25(OH)D ₃ 383/229,383/211; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/211; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/269, 395/119
211	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Proteins precipitated with acetonitrile containing IS followed by centrifugation	Turbulent flow column (32 mm x 4.6 mm; 3 µm)	25(OH)D ₃ 383/365 (quant), 383/257 (qual); 25(OH)D ₂ 395/209 (quant), 395/377 (qual)
214c	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Samples were extracted with hexane, centrifuged, evaporated, and filtered	Reversed-phase column (50 mm x 2.1 mm); isocratic elution with 85 % methanol/ 15 % water/ 0.1 % formic acid; flow 0.3 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/383; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 407/389; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/395
215	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein precipitation with 80 % methanol/ 20 % isopropanol and ZnSO ₄ ; supernatant extracted using SPE	C18 column (50 mm x 2.1 mm; 2.6 µm) column; gradient with water (0.1 % formic acid, 5 mmol/L ammonium formate) and methanol (0.05 % formic acid); flow 0.2 mL/min.	ESI 25(OH)D ₃ 401/383; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/395; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 407/389
216	Derivatized deuterated standard	Samples extracted using liquid-liquid extraction then labeled with a derivatization reagent	Reversed-phase column (150 mm x 2.1 mm); gradient from 25 % water (0.05 % formic acid) to 50 % acetonitrile (0.05 % formic acid); flow 0.2 mL/min	n/r
217	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein precipitation with ZnSO ₄ in methanol followed by SPE	C8 column (50 mm x 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm); gradient of 70 % to 98 % methanol (with 0.1 % formic acid); flow 0.4 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/159 (quant), 401/383 (qual); 25(OH)D ₂ 413/83 (quant), 413/395 (qual)
225	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Liquid-liquid extraction with hexanes	PFP column (100 mm x 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm); gradient with methanol/water	25(OH)D ₃ 401/107; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/83
228a	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
241	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Acetonitrile containing the IS (100 µL) added to sample (200 µL) to precipitate proteins, followed by extraction with hexane, centrifugation, removal of supernatant, evaporation, and reconstitution in methanol solution	PFP column (100 mm x 2.1 mm; 2.6 µm); gradient starting with 50 % methanol (0.1 % formic acid), 50 % water (0.1 % formic acid)	APCI 25(OH)D ₃ 383/211 (quant), 383/229 (qual); 25(OH)D ₂ 395/119 (quant), 395/211 (qual); 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/211
244	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein precipitation followed by filtration	CN column; mobile phase consisting of distilled water (formic acid) and methanol	25(OH)D ₃ 383/211; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 389/211; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/269
249	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ ; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ ; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃	Serum was deproteinated with NaOH and 90 % acetonitrile/ 10 % methanol followed by SPE	PFP column (100 mm x 2.1 mm; 1.8 µm); gradient separation with water (2 mmol/L ammonium acetate) and methanol; flow 0.35 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/159; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/159
251	25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ and 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃	Protein precipitation followed by SPE	Phenyl column (50 mm x 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm); gradient with water and methanol (0.1 % formic acid, 2 mmol/L ammonium acetate); flow 0.45 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/159 (quant), 401/365 (qual); 25(OH)D ₂ 413/83 (quant), 413/355 (qual); 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₃ 404/162; 25(OH)D ₂ -d ₃ 416/358
255	deuterium labeled compound	Samples were extracted and derivatized with 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione	Reversed-phase column (50 mm x 2.1 mm); gradient with methanol; flow 0.5 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 607/298; 25(OH)D ₂ 619/298

259	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Liquid-liquid extraction using hexane	C8 column; gradient with methanol/water/0.1 % formic acid; column temperature 40 °C; flow from 0.6 mL/min to 0.9 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 401/365; 25(OH)D ₂ 413/355; 25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆ 407/371
271	25(OH)D ₃ -d ₆	Protein precipitation	C8 column (3 µm); gradient with water/acetonitrile/0.1 % formic acid; flow 0.7 mL/min	25(OH)D ₃ 383/229; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/119
272	Isotopically labeled internal standards	Samples were precipitated and centrifuged before injection	Analytical column and trap column from a kit; separation using a binary gradient system and an additional isocratic pump	25(OH)D ₃ 383/257, 383/299; IS (1): 386/257, 386/232; 25(OH)D ₂ 395/269, 395/251; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ 383/257, 383/299; 3-epi-25(OH)D ₂ 395/269, 395/251; IS (2): 386/257, 386/232

C18 = octadecyl; C8 = octyl; PFP = pentafluorophenyl; SPE = solid phase extraction; CN = cyano;

MRM = multiple reaction monitoring; quant/qual = quantitative/qualitative ions; n/r = not reported;

APCI = atmospheric pressure chemical ionization; ESI = electrospray ionization

Appendix A-3. Summary of LC-UV methods as reported by the study participants.

Laboratory Number	Internal Standard (IS)	Sample Preparation	Chromatographic Conditions	Wavelength
110	n/a	Samples (500 µL) were mixed with ethanol (500 µL), extracted twice with hexane/methylene chloride (5:1), evaporated, and reconstituted	C18 column (2.1 mm × 100 mm; 1.8 µm); gradient with 85 % acetonitrile/ 15 % methanol and isopropanol (100 %)	267 nm
221b	laurophenone	Protein crash with acetonitrile solution containing IS, followed by SPE with C18, elution with methanol/acetonitrile solution, evaporation, and reconstitution with acetonitrile	CN column (150 mm × 5 mm; 3.5 µm); elution with methanol/water/formic acid; column temperature 47 °C	275 nm

C18 = octadecyl; SPE = solid phase extraction; CN = cyano; n/a = not applicable

Appendix B. Raw participant data and NIST results for 25(OH)D₂, 25(OH)D₃, 3-epi-25(OH)D₃, and 25(OH)D_{Total} in SRM 968f L1 (Vial A), SRM 968f L2 (Vial B), and SRM 968d L1 (Control).

Lab	Method	25(OH)D ₂ (ng/mL)			25(OH)D ₃ (ng/mL)			25(OH)D _{Total} (ng/mL)			3-epi-25(OH)D ₃ (ng/mL)		
		VitDQAP-I	VitDQAP-II	SRM 968d L1	VitDQAP-I	VitDQAP-II	SRM 968d L1	VitDQAP-I	VitDQAP-II	SRM 968d L1	VitDQAP-I	VitDQAP-II	SRM 968d L1
		Vial A	Vial B	Control	Vial A	Vial B	Control	Vial A	Vial B	Control	Vial A	Vial B	Control
026	LC-MS/MS	0.8	0.2	0.2	13.7	15.7	12.6	14.5	15.9	12.8	0.6	0.8	0.7
030b	LC-MS/MS	0	0	0	21.0	21.8	12.5	21.0	21.8	12.5	n/r	n/r	n/r
056a	LC-MS/MS	1.1	0.6	0.6	12.0	16.6	11.4	13.1	17.2	12.0	0.8	0.5	0.5
056b	LC-MS/MS	1.0	<0.6	<0.6	12.9	16.8	12.9	13.9	16.8	12.9	n/r	n/r	n/r
060	LC-MS/MS	1.0	0.3	0.1	12.9	18.3	12.6	13.9	18.6	12.7	0.6	0.9	0.5
110	LC-UV	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	13.0	18.4	12.5	n/r	n/r	n/r
116	LC-MS/MS	<3.3	<3.3	<3.3	14.8	17.6	13.9	14.8	17.6	13.9	<4	<4	<4
127	EIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.8	21.0	18.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
150	LC-MS/MS	<5	<5	<5	13.0	17.0	13.0	13.0	17.0	13.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
161b	LC-MS/MS	<4	<4	<4	10.8	16.6	13.5	10.8	16.6	13.5	n/r	n/r	n/r
188	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.5	14.5	12.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
194	LC-MS/MS	<7	<7	<7	14.6	16.4	14.1	14.6	16.4	14.1	n/r	n/r	n/r
196	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.8	16.9	14.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
197	LC-MS/MS	<5	<5	0	12.7	17.7	12.3	12.7	17.7	12.3	n/r	n/r	n/r
199	LC-MS/MS	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	13.4	16.7	13.1	13.4	16.7	13.1	n/r	n/r	n/r
204b	LC-MS/MS	n/r	n/r	n/r	12.6	16.2	12.4	12.6	16.2	12.4	n/r	n/r	n/r
209	LC-MS/MS	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	14.6	20.1	11.8	14.6	20.1	11.8	n/r	n/r	n/r
211	LC-MS/MS	0	0	0	13.0	19.0	13.1	13.0	19.0	13.1	0	0	0
214b	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.5	15.0	17.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
214c	LC-MS/MS	0.9	<0.5	<0.5	12.4	16.4	12.7	13.3	16.4	12.7	n/r	n/r	n/r
215	LC-MS/MS	<2	<2	<2	12.8	17.2	12.8	12.8	17.2	12.8	n/r	n/r	n/r
216	LC-MS/MS	0.9	0.2	0.2	12.8	16.6	12.5	13.7	16.8	12.7	0.6	0.5	0.7
217	LC-MS/MS	0	0	0	16.0	20.8	18.4	16.0	20.8	18.4	n/r	n/r	n/r
218a	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.4	14.2	16.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
221b	LC-UV	0	0	0	14.0	18.0	19.0	14.0	18.0	19.0	n/r	n/r	n/r
225	LC-MS/MS	<5	<5	<5	13.7	16.6	12.7	13.7	16.6	12.7	n/r	n/r	n/r
228a	LC-MS/MS	n/r	n/r	n/r	13.2	15.8	12.4	13.2	15.8	12.4	0.2	0.5	0.7
241	LC-MS/MS	1.5	0.0	0.1	12.5	17.4	12.9	14.0	17.4	13.0	0.0	1.0	0.6
244	LC-MS/MS	<5	<5	<5	12.3	15.6	12.7	12.3	15.6	12.7	n/r	n/r	n/r
249	LC-MS/MS	<0.8	<0.8	<0.8	12.7	18.0	13.3	12.7	18.0	13.3	0.7	0.7	0.7
251	LC-MS/MS	<4	<4	n/r	16.0	20.0	n/r	16.0	20.0	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
255	LC-MS/MS	0.8	0.0	0.0	14.5	17.4	13.6	15.3	17.4	13.6	n/r	n/r	n/r
256	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.3	15.2	12.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
259	LC-MS/MS	n/d	n/d	n/d	11.4	13.5	13.2	11.4	13.5	13.2	n/r	n/r	n/r
261	CLIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.2	35.9	13.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
271	LC-MS/MS	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	12.7	18.1	11.2	16.7	22.1	15.2	n/r	n/r	n/r
272	LC-MS/MS	1.2	0.4	0.2	12.4	16.4	12.3	13.6	16.8	12.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
273	EIA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.6	18.1	15.1	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not applicable (for immunoassay methods); n/r = not reported or not determined; n/d = not detected; < X = less than a reported quantitation limit of X

NIST Value	0.85	0.17	0.1*	12.3	15.6	12.4	13.2	15.8	12.5	0.72	1.1	0.65
U	0.06	0.02	---	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.07	0.2	0.03

*estimated value (no uncertainty determined)