

World Anti-Doping Agency Overview of scientific activities

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WADA is pleased to promote the theme of sports and Olympics during 2008 World Metrology Day. As a global coordinator of the fight against doping in sport, WADA emphasizes the importance of precise and reliable test measurements as the basis for the worldwide result acceptance from the WADA-accredited laboratories thus raising international confidence in fair play. WADA has developed a robust accreditation program and is actively collaborating with global accreditation community and intergovernmental organizations such as ILAC and BIPM to increase uniformity of measurement of performance-enhancing substances and methods around the world.

WADA was created as a response to the threats that doping poses to athletes' health, to the integrity of sports and to greater public health. WADA is a joint partnership between the sports movement and governments of the world.

The Agency was mandated to develop a set of international and comprehensive rules to strengthen and harmonize the fight against doping in sport. The World Anti-Doping Code is the fundamental document of the World Anti-Doping Program. The Code harmonizes rules regarding doping, across all sports and all countries and has proven to be a fair and effective tool for combating doping.

WADA's scientific work follows two distinct paths: implementation of standards and procedures mandated by the World Anti-Doping Code, and funding of an international research program. Significant enhancements in blood doping detection (new forms of recombinant EPO, homologous blood transfusion), implementation of a human growth hormone detection method by the WADA-accredited laboratories, and introduction of the athlete's passport concept represent noticeable outcomes of the WADA research program.

WADA's Laboratory Accreditation Program is an integral part of WADA's global task in the fight against doping and represents a complex multi-step process of ongoing compliance monitoring. In preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, WADA is working closely with the Beijing anti-doping laboratory to ensure that scientific expertise and accurate measurements will help to eliminate from the Games those who might seek an unfair competitive advantage by using performance-enhancing substances or methods.