

Weqas

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



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12-13 DECEMBER
The Hilton Hotel, Cardiff

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CARDIFF
2023

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Getting there



By Car:

The Hilton Hotel
Kingsway, Greyfriars Road
Cardiff
CF10 3HH



Parking:

Day parking at the hotel is subject to availability and charged at £29 per day. Additional parking can be found here: <https://conference.weqas.com/venue/useful-links/>



Arriving By Train:

Cardiff Central Station is a 12 minute walk or a short taxi ride to the hotel. Additional train information can be found here: <https://conference.weqas.com/venue/useful-links/>

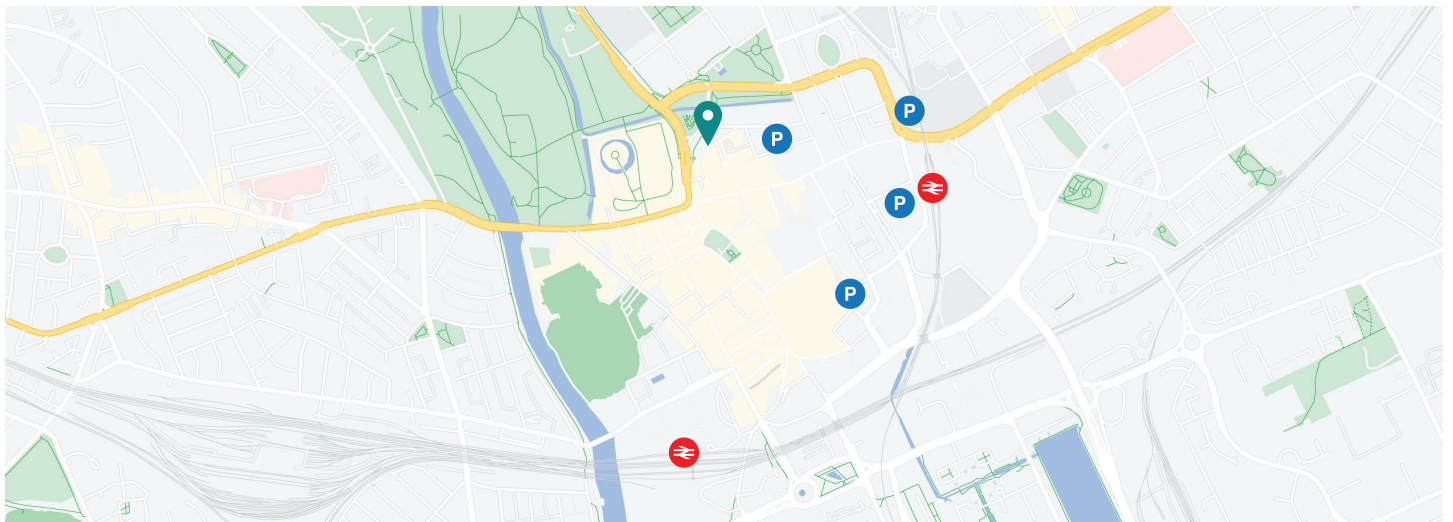


Arriving By Plane:

The hotel is a 30-40 minute taxi ride from Cardiff Airport, or there are regular buses that go from Cardiff International Airport to Canal Street (10 min walk from the hotel).



Map:



Map Key



The Hilton Hotel, Cardiff



Train station



Car park

Conference Chairs

Day 1: Tuesday 12th December 2023

Theme: Point of care testing and the future of diagnostics



Chair: Prof. Garry John

Retired Consultant Clinical Biochemist

Garry has held senior positions in UK hospitals for 30 years and has driven change locally and nationally. In addition to leading the Department of Clinical Biochemistry within the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, he has been Clinical Director, Associate Medical Director and Director of Research. He is additionally an Honorary Professor in the Norwich Medical School. Garry has had an influence on scientific work nationally and internationally; he has served on ACB Council and his interest in quality has been demonstrated by his significant involvement in UK EQA Schemes (UKNEQAS and WEQAS).

But most notably Garry has had a long and successful association with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine; he has chaired three active committees: first a Working Group (WG) on Haemoglobin A1c standardisation, the first WG to fully complete all tasks allocated; then chairing a Task Force on implementation of HbA1c standardisation where he worked closely with manufacturers and professional organisations achieving global standardisation. He also chaired a committee within the Educational Division on Education in the use of Biomarkers in Diabetes. He is widely recognised and respected within the scientific community and has a long experience in delivering results.

Day 2: Wednesday 13th December 2023

Theme: Point of care testing and the future of diagnostics



Chair: Prof. Pat Twomey

University College Dublin

Professor Patrick Twomey is consultant chemical pathologist in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, the Laboratory Director for Clinical Chemistry within the St Vincent's Hospital Group and Clinical Professor in the School of Medicine, University College Dublin. He obtained an Intercalated BSc in Biochemistry from University College Cork before being awarded his Medical degree. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Faculty of Pathology at the Royal

College of Physicians of Ireland and of the Royal College of Pathologists where he also is an examiner. He is the President of the UEMS Section of Laboratory Medicine (European Union Medical Specialists), Internal Auditor UEMS and National Speciality Director Chemical Pathology, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He has co-authored one text book, several book chapters and over 100 original publications in the fields of clinical biochemistry, metabolic medicine, lipids and nutrition. He is the Best Practice Editor of the Journal of Clinical Pathology and is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Clinical Pathology, the British Medical Journal Case Reports and the Clinical Biochemistry journal. He was previously the Vice Chair of the UK Joint Working Group on Quality Assessment in Pathology and past Chair of the Chemical Pathology National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel within the Royal College of Pathologists - currently he sits on the Vitamin D EQA Scheme (DEQAS) advisory panel and the Wales EQA Scheme (WEQAS) Steering Committee.

He runs clinical metabolic services for dyslipidaemia.

Please Note: Times and schedule are a guide only and are subject to change.



Theme: Point of care testing and the future of diagnostics

Chair: Prof. Garry John



Meet and greet / Registration - 9:00am - 9:50am



Introduction / Welcome - 9:50am - 10:00am



Speaker: **Samantha Jones & Gareth Davies**

Title: Weqas Connect Update



10:00am - 10:40am



Speaker: **Samantha Jones & Gareth Davies**

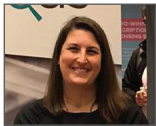
Title: Weqas Connect EQA Report Interpretation



10:40am - 11:40am



Break - 11:40am - 12:00pm



Speaker: **Samantha Jones & Nicola Blount**

Title: Weqas Connect POCT EQA Report Interpretation



12:00pm - 12:30pm



Speaker: **Samantha Jones & Nicola Blount**

Title: Weqas Connect Case Studies



12:30pm - 1:30pm



Lunch - 1:30pm - 2:30pm



Speaker: **Dr. Simon Barry**

Title: CRP in COPD management



2:30pm - 3:10pm



Speaker: **Gareth Davies**

Title: POCT CRP Performance on Weqas EQA programme



3:10pm - 3:25pm



Break - 3:25pm - 3:45pm



Speaker: **Daniel Boyland, UKAS**

Title: ISO 15189:22 changes – what does this mean for POCT



3:45pm - 4:15pm

“How to” Workshops

Presented by the National POCT Strategy Board



Speaker: **Linda Turner & Gaynor Driver**

Title: IT connectivity in Primary care - experiences in shared care for INR monitoring



4:15pm - 4:40pm

Speaker: **Rachel Evans**

Title: An All Wales Approach and Value Based Procurement for POCT



4:40pm - 5:05pm

Speaker: **Ruth Jones**

Title: Supporting POCT Viscoelastic Haemostasis testing for post-partum haemorrhage



5:05pm - 5:30pm



Conference Dinner - 8:00pm

Please Note: Times and schedule are a guide only and are subject to change.



Theme: Point of care testing and the future of diagnostics

Chair: Prof. Pat Twomey



Meet and greet / Registration - 9:00am - 9:20am



Introduction / Welcome - 9:20am - 9:30am



Speaker: **Jonathan Harris**

Title: POCT Accreditation. The National Reference Laboratory Experience



9:30am - 10:10am



Speaker: **Annette Thomas**

Title: Developing a National POCT strategy



10:10am - 10:40am



Break - 10:40am - 11:00am



Speaker: **Annette Thomas**

Title: Risk Management



11:00am - 11:30am



Speaker: **Dr. Richard Body**

Title: Clinical applications of POCT hs-cTn testing



11:30am - 12:10pm



Speaker: **Gareth Davies**

Title: Weqas hsTn study - results so far



12:10pm - 12:30pm



Speaker: **Aine Moylett**

Title: POCT applications in genetic testing



12:30pm - 1:10pm



Lunch - 1:10pm - 2:10pm



Speaker: **Industry Representatives**

Title: What do we need to capture in a POCT performance dashboard and how can middleware help us?



2:10pm - 3:10pm



Speaker: **Group discussion**

Title: Developing a dashboard



3:10pm - 3:40pm



Break - 3:40pm - 4:00pm



Speaker: **Dr. Sarah Bell**

Title: Viscoelastic Haemostasis in post partum haemorrhage



4:00pm - 4:40pm



Speaker: **Gareth Davies**

Title: Performance in Viscoelastic Haemostasis EQA programme



4:40pm - 5:00pm



Tea, Coffee & Close - 5:00pm

Title: Weqas Connect Update



10:00am - 10:40pm



Samantha Jones

Operations Manager - Weqas

Samantha is the Operations Manager at Weqas with over 25 years' experience in Laboratory Medicine. Sam worked as a Biomedical Scientist at the Medical Biochemistry and Immunology Department at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff before moving to Weqas in 1998. Since 2010 she has been employed as the Operations Manager responsible for the day to day management of EQA / IQC services.

She is a current member of the IFCC Working Group on FIT, represents Weqas at the United Kingdom Proficiency Testing Committee and represents BSI on the ISO CASCO WG57 for the revision of ISO/IEC 17043.



Gareth Davies

Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist, R and D Manager - Weqas

Gareth Davies is the Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist and Research and Development Manager at Weqas with over 15 years experience in Laboratory Medicine. Gareth is responsible for new programme development and provides EQA interpretation, support and troubleshooting. He is a current member and former Minute Secretary of the All Wales Clinical Biochemistry Audit Group, and a current member of the ACB Pre-Analytical Phase Special Interest Group (ACB PA SIG).

Notes

Title: Weqas Connect EQA Report Interpretation



10:40am - 11:40am



Samantha Jones
Operations Manager - Weqas



Gareth Davies
Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist, R and D Manager - Weqas

Notes

Title: Weqas Connect POCT EQA Report Interpretation



12:00pm - 12:30pm



Samantha Jones
Operations Manager - Weqas



Nicola Blount
EQA Client Manager - Weqas

Nicola Blount is the EQA Client Manager at Weqas, responsible for the day to day management of the Weqas EQA team and client issues. Nicola is committed to maintaining high professional standards, participant satisfaction and has extensive POCT knowledge. Nicola believes that providing an exceptional experience with every participant she speaks with creates a positive change in EQA. Nicola has over 28 years' experience in Laboratory Medicine; worked as a Senior Biomedical Scientist and POCT Manager at Llandough Hospital part of the University Hospital of Wales Health Board. Nicola is a Fellow of the IBMS and a Chartered Scientist.

Notes

Title: Weqas Connect Case Studies



12:30pm - 1:30pm



Samantha Jones
Operations Manager - Weqas



Nicola Blount
EQA Client Manager - Weqas

Notes

Title: CRP in COPD management



2:30pm - 3:10pm



Dr. Simon Barry

Lead, National Respiratory Health Implementation group Wales

Consultant respiratory physician in Cardiff since 2008. National clinical lead for respiratory medicine since 2016. Interests are implementation of national solutions to improve respiratory outcomes.

Notes

Title: POCT CRP Performance on Weqas EQA programme



3:10pm - 3:25pm



Gareth Davies

Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist, R and D Manager - Weqas

Notes

Title: ISO 15189:22 changes – what does this mean for POCT



3:45pm - 4:15pm



Daniel Boyland

UKAS

Before joining UKAS he worked within the NHS for 14 years; developing from a support role early on, then undertaking further training onto a Biomedical Scientist within Haematology and Blood Transfusion with a term as a Lab Manager for Haemoglobinopathy diagnostics. This involved the successful delivery of the nationalised requirements for the screening program and Antenatal screening for Sickle cell and Thalassaemia and then his final role in Training and Standardisation.

Notes



National Point of Care Testing Strategy Board

Recognising that emerging trends and technologies provide exciting opportunities for the pathology community to rethink approaches to the development and delivery of services in the future, the National Point of Care Testing Strategy Group is working to identify and establish a formal structured arrangement to deliver Point of Care Testing services in NHS Wales.

Point of Care Testing (POCT) relates to any medical diagnostic testing at the time and place of patient care.

It is an area of healthcare that is developing rapidly, with increased and improved connectivity and technological innovation. These advancements make 'near patient' results possible, with the potential to improve assessment and care management for the patient.

Having diagnosis closer to the patient can help manage life-threatening conditions, such as sepsis and infection control. It also helps patients to self-monitor chronic conditions, such as diabetes, without having to visit hospitals and GP surgeries.

Working with health board point of care testing services, the POCT Strategy Group will also oversee other areas of work, such as:

- improvements in the infrastructure to support national POCT systems;
- the development of POCT training and competencies for both laboratory and non-laboratory based staff; and
- promoting and championing the role and value of POCT, which will improve the consistency of the service throughout Wales, and help share best practice and the benefits of research.

Speaker: Linda Turner & Gaynor Driver

Title: IT connectivity in Primary care – experiences in shared care for INR monitoring



4:15pm - 4:40pm

Speaker: Rachel Evans

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4:40pm - 5:05pm

Speaker: Ruth Jones

Title: Supporting POCT Viscoelastic Haemostasis testing for post-partum haemorrhage



5:05pm - 5:30pm

Title: POCT Accreditation. The National Reference Laboratory Experience

9:30am - 10:10am

**Jonathan Harris**

BSc, BSc (Biochem), MSc (Biomed), MSc (Leadership), FAMLS

Jonathan graduated from the University of Ireland, Galway in 1997 with a degree in Physiology and Biochemistry. He obtained an honours degree specialising in Biochemistry with the University of Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom a year later.

He began his career in Blackrock Clinic, the largest and longest opened private hospital in Ireland as a Medical Scientist in Immunology. He diversified his interest and worked in Biochemistry for 5 years. He went on to study a Masters in Biomedical Science with the University of Ulster in Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

He was employed as a Senior Medical Scientist in the Blood Sciences department at the Hermitage Medical Clinic in Dublin for 6 years which included responsibility for Point of Care Testing (POCT). He became a fellow of the Academy of Medical Laboratory Science in Ireland in 2012.

In 2014, he was employed as POCT Manager in the newly built Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD). Jonathan was responsible for setting up and establishing the POCT department. The department achieved CAP accreditation within 6 months of opening. In 2016, the POCT program achieved ISO 22870 accreditation with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, the first in the Middle East to achieve this. CCAD has the broadest POCT scope accredited to this standard internationally.

In 2019, Jonathan transferred to National Reference Laboratory where he continued to manage POCT at CCAD. In 2023, he was asked to lead a POCT centralization project across the Mubadala Health Enterprise. This will involve the creation of a dedicate POCT department, with centralization of all services associated with it.

Jonathan has produced a number of publications relating to POCT in journals and magazines. He is a regular contributor to conferences in the region. Jonathan completed a Masters with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland in Healthcare Leadership & Innovation in 2021. He has also led the hosting of multiple dedicated POCT conferences in Abu Dhabi. The next one will be in April 2024.

Title: Developing a National POCT strategy

10:10am - 10:40am

**Annette Thomas**

Director - Weqas

Annette Thomas is a Consultant Clinical Biochemist at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board with over 40 years' experience in Laboratory Medicine, over 20 years of which has been as Director of Weqas, a well-respected International EQA provider and Reference Measurement Laboratory.

Annette is also the National Point of Care (POCT) Clinical lead for Wales, a seconded position to the Wales NHS Executive responsible for delivering the strategy plan for POCT. She represents POCT on Welsh Government advisory Committees and chairs the National POCT Strategic Board and the POCT Delivery Group.

She is a member of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Task Force on Global Lab Quality and past chair of the IFCC Committee on Analytical Quality.

She has previously held posts on the Executive Board of the European Committee for External Quality Assurance Programmes in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM), chair of the All Wales Clinical Biochemistry Audit Group and chair of the National Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) Audit Committee in the UK.

In 2019 she received the EQALM Adam Uldall Award for her contribution to promoting quality in laboratory medicine and the Healthcare Science Lifetime Achievement award from the Welsh Government.

Notes

Title: Risk Management



11:00am - 11:30am



Annette Thomas

Director - Weqas

Notes

Title: Clinical applications of POCT hs-cTn testing



11:30am - 12:10pm



Dr. Richard Body

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Manchester. Honorary Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Group Director of Research & Innovation at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. Lead for Business Engagement & Innovation for the School of Medical Science.

Notes

Title: Weqas hsTn study - results so far



12:10pm - 12:30pm



Gareth Davies

Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist, R and D Manager - Weqas

Notes

Title: POCT applications in genetic testing



12:30pm - 1:10pm



Aine Moylett

All Wales Medical Genomics Service

Notes

Title: What do we need to capture in a POCT performance dashboard and how can middleware help us?



2:10pm - 3:10pm



Industry Representatives

Notes

Title: Developing a dashboard



3:10pm - 3:40pm



Group discussion

Notes

Title: Viscoelastic Haemostasis in post partum haemorrhage



4:00pm - 4:40pm



Dr. Sarah Bell

Consultant Anaesthetist - Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

Notes

Title: Performance in Viscoelastic Haemostasis EQA programme



4:40pm - 5:00pm



Gareth Davies

Deputy Director, Principal Biochemist, R and D Manager - Weqas

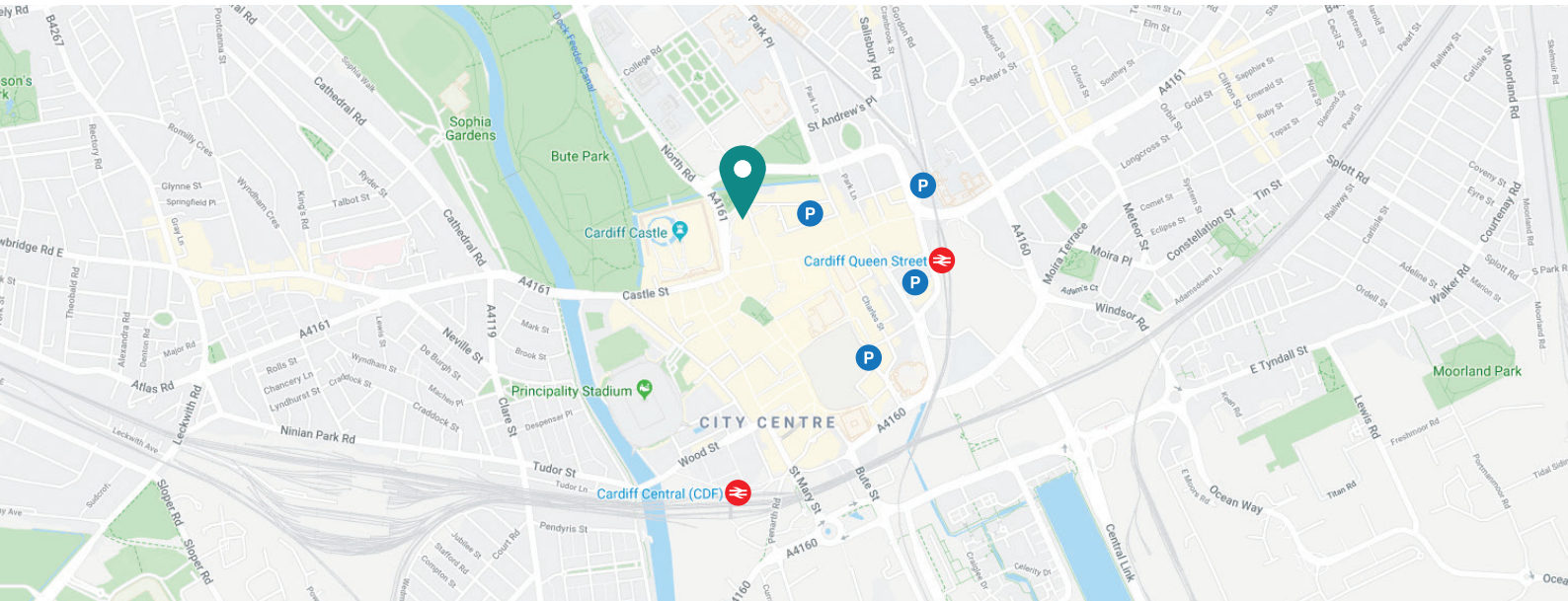
Notes

Lined area for taking notes

20 horizontal lines for writing

CARDIFF 2023

12-13 DECEMBER
The Hilton Hotel, Cardiff



Conference Address:

The Hilton Hotel
Kingsway, Greyfriars Road
Cardiff
CF10 3HH

Tel: 02920 646300



Our Address:

Weqas
Unit 6, Parc Ty Glas
Llanishen, Cardiff
CF14 5DU

Tel: 02921 847810