

# Weqas

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE



9-10 DECEMBER  
Hilton Manchester Deansgate

# MANCHESTER 2Q24

Sponsors:



## Getting there



### By Car:

Hilton Manchester Deansgate  
303 Deansgate  
Manchester  
M3 4LQ



### Parking:

The hotel offers Valet Parking (subject to availability) charged at £25 per day. Additional parking can be found here: <https://conference.weqas.com/venue/useful-links/>



### Arriving By Train:

Manchester Piccadilly is a 20 minute walk or a short taxi ride to the hotel. Additional train information can be found here: <https://conference.weqas.com/venue/useful-links/>

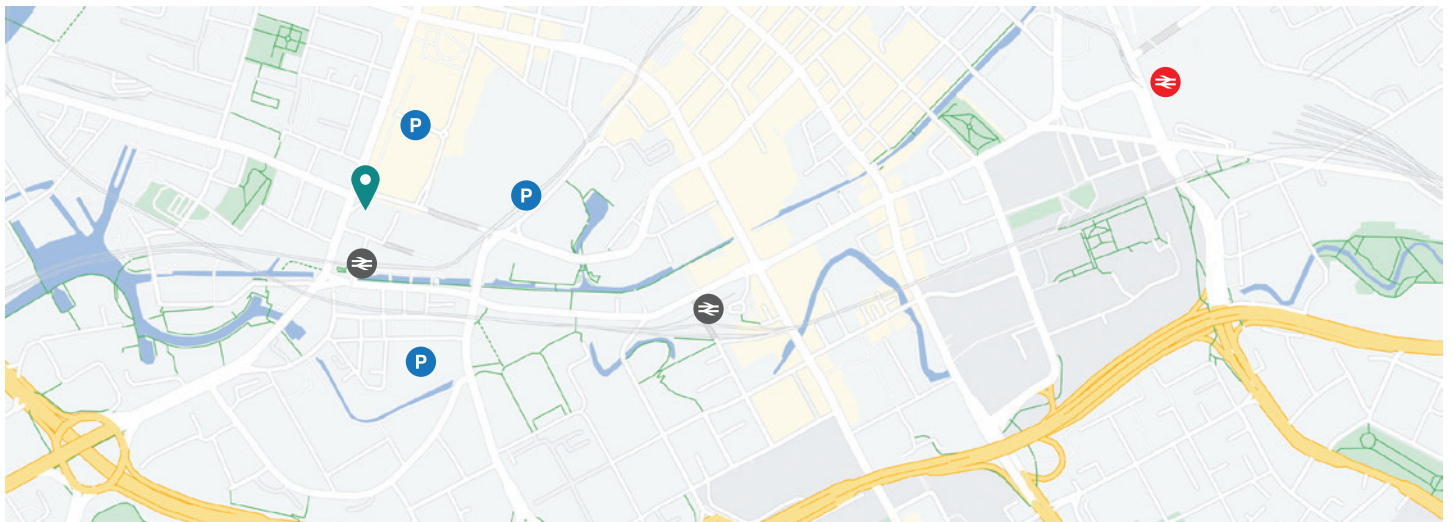


### Arriving By Plane:

The hotel is a 20-30 minute taxi ride from Manchester Airport, or there are regular trains that go from Manchester Airport to Deansgate Station (4 min walk from the hotel).



### Map:



### Map Key



Hilton Manchester Deansgate



Manchester Piccadilly



Car park



Train station

## Conference Chairs

Day 1: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Theme: EQA interpretation and laboratory performance



### 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: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Theme: Point of care testing performance and innovation



### 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 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:** EQA interpretation and laboratory performance

**Chair:** Prof. Garry John



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



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



**Speaker:** Samantha Jones  
**Title:** Weqas Connect Update



10:00am - 10:30am

**Speaker:** Samantha Jones & Gareth Davies  
**Title:** Weqas Connect EQA Report Interpretation



10:30am - 11:10am



Break - 11:10am - 11:30am



**Speaker:** Samantha Jones & Gareth Davies  
**Title:** EQA Laboratory Case Studies



11:30am - 12:30pm



Lunch - 12:30pm - 1:30pm



**Speaker:** Annette Thomas  
**Title:** Analytical Performance Specification (APS) - Are they clinically appropriate?



1:30pm - 2:00pm



**Speaker:** David Ducroq  
**Title:** Bile acid performance: is it good enough to use global targets?



2:00pm - 2:40pm



**Speaker:** Annette Thomas & Gareth Davies  
**Title:** Neonatal bilirubin: guidelines and analytical performance



2:40pm - 3:10pm



Break - 3:10pm - 3:30pm



**Speaker:** Miranda Van Berkel  
**Title:** Standardisation and Performance of bilirubin



3:30pm - 4:00pm



**Speaker:** Prof. Pat Twomey  
**Title:** Lies, Damned Lies and Calculations



4:00pm - 4:30pm



**Speaker:** Gareth Davies  
**Title:** Weqas Pilot Programmes



4:30pm - 4:40pm

Industry representatives & close of day 1 - 4:40pm - 4:55pm



Conference Dinner - 8:00pm

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



**Theme:** Point of care testing performance and innovation

**Chair:** Prof. Pat Twomey



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



Introduction / Welcome - 9:20am - 9:25am



**Speaker:** Samantha Jones & Nicola Blount  
**Title:** Weqas Connect & POCT EQA Report Interpretation

9:25am - 10:10am

**Speaker:** Samantha Jones & Nicola Blount  
**Title:** POCT EQA Case Studies

10:10am - 11:10am

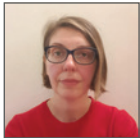


Break - 11:10am - 11:30am



**Speaker:** Dan Lasserson  
**Title:** POCT in ambulatory care and hospital at home – the key to changing pathways

11:30am - 12:10pm



**Speaker:** Christina Soromani  
**Title:** Intraoperative PTH

12:10pm - 12:50pm



Lunch - 12:50pm - 1:50pm



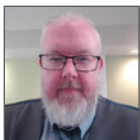
**Speaker:** Gareth Davies  
**Title:** Pre-term labour markers - which kits to use?

1:50pm - 2:10pm



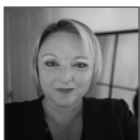
**Speaker:** Haval Ozgun  
**Title:** Experience of ISO 15189:2022 accreditation for POCT

2:10pm - 2:40pm



**Speaker:** Lee Peters  
**Title:** A Career Framework for POCT staff: a Welsh perspective.

2:40pm - 3:10pm



**Speaker:** Katie Moss  
**Title:** Developing a North West regional service for POCT

3:10pm - 3:40pm



Refreshments - 3:40pm - 4:00pm



**Speaker:** Gareth Davies  
**Title:** Pilot POCT Programmes

4:00pm - 4:10pm

Industry representatives & conference close - 4:10pm - 4:50pm



## 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.



## 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 of the National Clinical Biochemistry Audit Group, the All-Wales Clinical Biochemistry Audit Group, and the ACB Pre-Analytical Phase Special Interest Group (ACB PA SIG).



## Samantha Jones

Operations Manager - Weqas

Samantha is the Operations Manager at Weqas with over 30 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 on 2 working groups (POCT and ISO 17043) at EQALM (The European Organisation for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine) and represents Weqas at the United Kingdom Proficiency Testing Committee. She was also one of the two UK BSI representatives on the ISO CASCO WG57 for the revision of ISO/IEC 17043.



## David Ducroq

Head of the Reference Measurement Laboratory - Weqas

David is the Principal Clinical Biochemist with a specific role in the management and development of services within the Reference Measurement Laboratory since 2002. With over 35 years laboratory experience, David has a keen interest in metrology and measurement traceability. He is currently the JCTLM Database Working Group (JCTLM-DBWG) review team leader for electrolytes and blood gases. He is a JCTLM-DBWG review team member for both the non-peptide hormones group and metabolites and substrates group. He is also a member of the JCTLM-WG-TEP (Traceability: Education and Promotion). He is also a member of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry Special Interest Group.



## 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.



### Miranda Van Berkel

Clinical Chemist - Radboud University Medical Centre

Miranda van Berkel is clinical chemist at the Radboud university medical centre in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. She is also the chair of the section Clinical Chemistry of the Dutch EQA organization, the SKML, and member of the IFCC working group on standardization of neonatal bilirubin. Her main research aim is to reduce misclassification of neonatal hyperbilirubinemia due to differences in bilirubin assays.



### Daniel Lasserson

Professor of Acute Ambulatory Care - University of Warwick

Dan Lasserson is Professor of Acute Ambulatory Care at Warwick Medical School, Clinical Lead for the Acute Hospital at Home service, Dept of Geriatric Medicine, at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and is the Past President of the UK Hospital at Home Society. He has set up, delivered and evaluated acute ambulatory care and hospital at home services that utilise point of care diagnostic testing. He has been working closely with the Clinical Biochemistry team at Oxford for 14 years to embed POCT and expand clinical services that depend on them.

He is the Theme Lead for Acute Care Interfaces in the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands, co-theme lead for health technology in homes and care homes in the NIHR Community Health Technology Research Centre (HRC) and lead for Hospital at Home in the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Digital Health from hospital to home theme. He sits on the NHS England Hospital at Home National Clinical Advisory Group, the Society for Acute Medicine's Research Committee and is on the Editorial Board of the Acute Medicine Journal.



### Christina Soromani

Principal Clinical Scientist - Health Services Laboratories

Christina is a principal clinical biochemist who has been working in near patient and point of care testing since 2016 when she joined Health Services Laboratories (HSL). She is the laboratory lead for the combined screening programme (FASP) at UCLH, the satellite diabetes lab and the intraoperative PTH service. Christina also leads the POCT team that manages some of the POCT devices on behalf of the Trust.



### Haval Ozgun

General Manager, Division of Rapid Diagnostics - Southwest London Pathology

My experience in POCT spans over 20 years and ranges across strategy and policy, service delivery, accreditation and regulatory compliance, quality improvement and business development. As a POCT manager-Network lead I'm responsible for all of the above aspects of the POCT pathology discipline within the South West London Pathology network (SWLP). This includes the delivery of a harmonised, standardised, electronically-connected and integrated POCT service with state-of-the-art POCT solutions and excellent clinical expertise.

I play a key role in delivering complex transformation solutions across the network and in the development of patient pathways, utilising rapid POCT diagnostics, and ensuring a close relationship between the trust, patients, staff and medical technology that ultimately improves patient safety, clinical outcomes, patients' and clinicians' satisfaction and facilitates the successful delivery of a safe and efficient healthcare services.

I have extensive experience in the evaluation and implementation of large-scale POCT solutions across the south west London region and beyond. As a key contributor to national POCT initiatives I have successfully led several innovative POCT project that were later rolled out on a national scale. In addition, I have established and implemented a robust POCT-specific quality management system which encompasses all aspects of safety, quality, risk management, service development and improvement in line with ISO15189 and ISO22870 pathology standards. I'm currently leading on the SWLP network's strategy for attaining accreditation for POCT.

I'm the winner of NHS London innovation in healthcare education award (November 2013) and the Advancing Healthcare award (April 2014) and was the finalist of the HSJ award 2018 for the introduction of the rapid POCT influenza testing in South West London.



### Lee Peters

Blood Science Service Manager - Hywel Dda University Health Board

Lee has been a Biomedical scientist since 2004, working in both Biochemistry and POCT. His current role is the Service manager in blood sciences in Hywel Dda University Health Board, managing the chemistry, haematology/BT and POCT services.

Lee is currently undertaking doctoral research into the education and training of POCT staff.



### Katie Moss

NHS Programme Director - Greater Manchester NHS

Katie Moss is the Greater Manchester Diagnostic Network Programme Director with over 24 years' experience of working within various NHS diagnostic and senior management roles and is now responsible for leading and directing the portfolio of the Greater Manchester Diagnostic Network.

After graduating with a 2:1 BSc in Biomedical Science, Katie was appointed as an NHS Trainee Biomedical Scientist where she worked and specialised in Microbiology for over 14 years. In that time, Katie went onto to complete a master's in biomedical science and management Training Certificate before deciding upon a change of career. Katie went on to successfully undertake roles within Clinical Audit, Transformation and Programme Management whilst developing her educational achievements with the completion of various programme management and leadership qualifications.

Katie is now an influential and highly recognised member of the NHS diagnostic community who has proven experience of delivering complex transformation programmes, establishing multi stakeholder networks including the establishment of both the Greater Manchester Imaging and Pathology Networks and developing short- and long-term strategic business models.

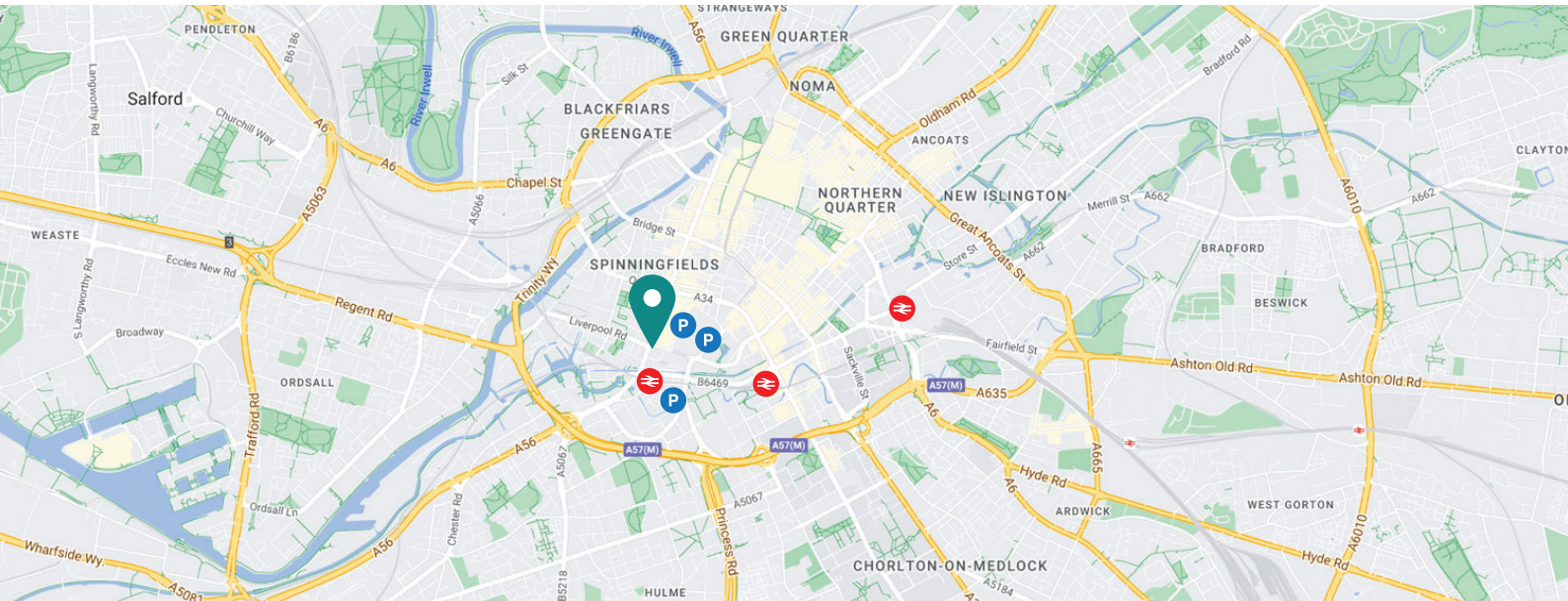
Katie has a strong passion for diagnostic innovation and improving patient care through the adoption of new technologies and out of hospital diagnostics which support faster, real-time diagnosis and enable patients to have a greater ability to manage their own health and wellbeing. Katie is the current chair of the Northwest Point of Care Testing Strategy Group and is leading a northwest pilot to trial the use of POCT devices within Community Acute Respiratory Infection Hubs. She has also been responsible for establishing the Greater Manchester Physiological Sciences Network.

Outside of work, Katie is a mum to one, wife to one and dog parent to two bonkers spaniels. She often spends her down time, walking the dogs, playing netball and being a real foodie, she loves to eat out and experience different cuisine.



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## Conference Address:

Hilton Manchester Deansgate  
303 Deansgate  
Manchester  
M3 4LQ

Tel: 01618 701600



## Our Address:

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