

UK NEQAS @ 50

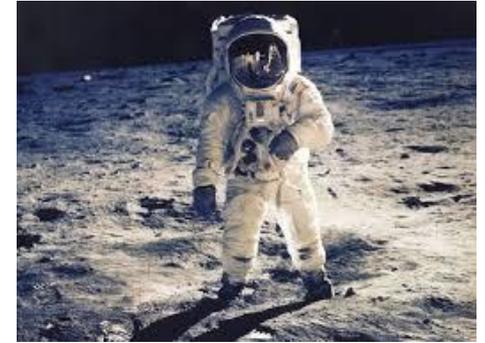
Mr Liam Whitby
President
UK NEQAS
www.ukneqasli.org



First flight of a Boeing 747



Raid on the Stonewall Inn



Humans walk on the moon



Woodstock Festival



Loaf of bread – 9p
Pint of milk - 18p
Pint of beer – 20p



John Lennon quits Beatles



Coulter Counter Model FN
Released 1968

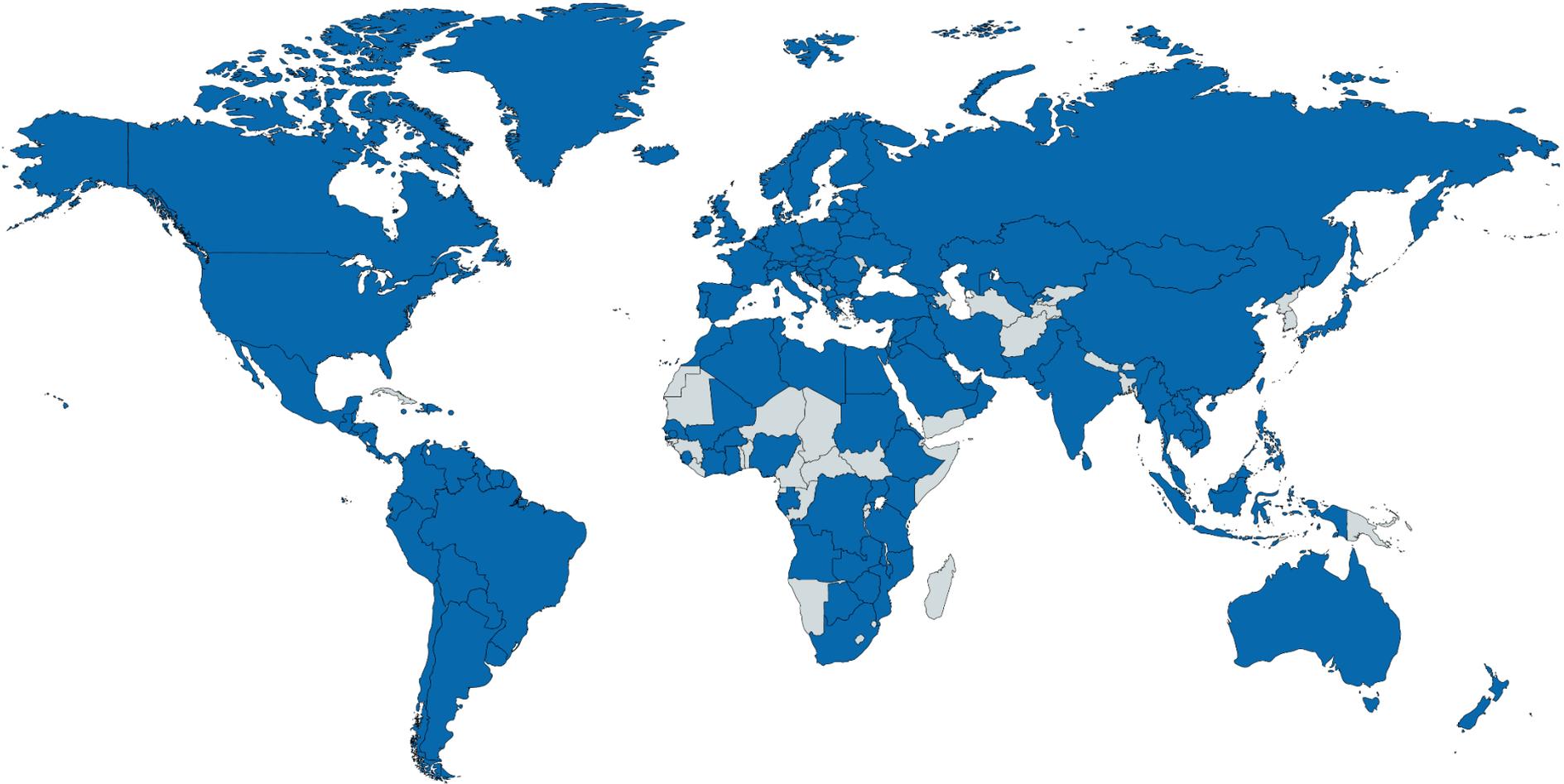
Keeler 'Grey Wedge' Haemoscope
Circa 1966 - 1972

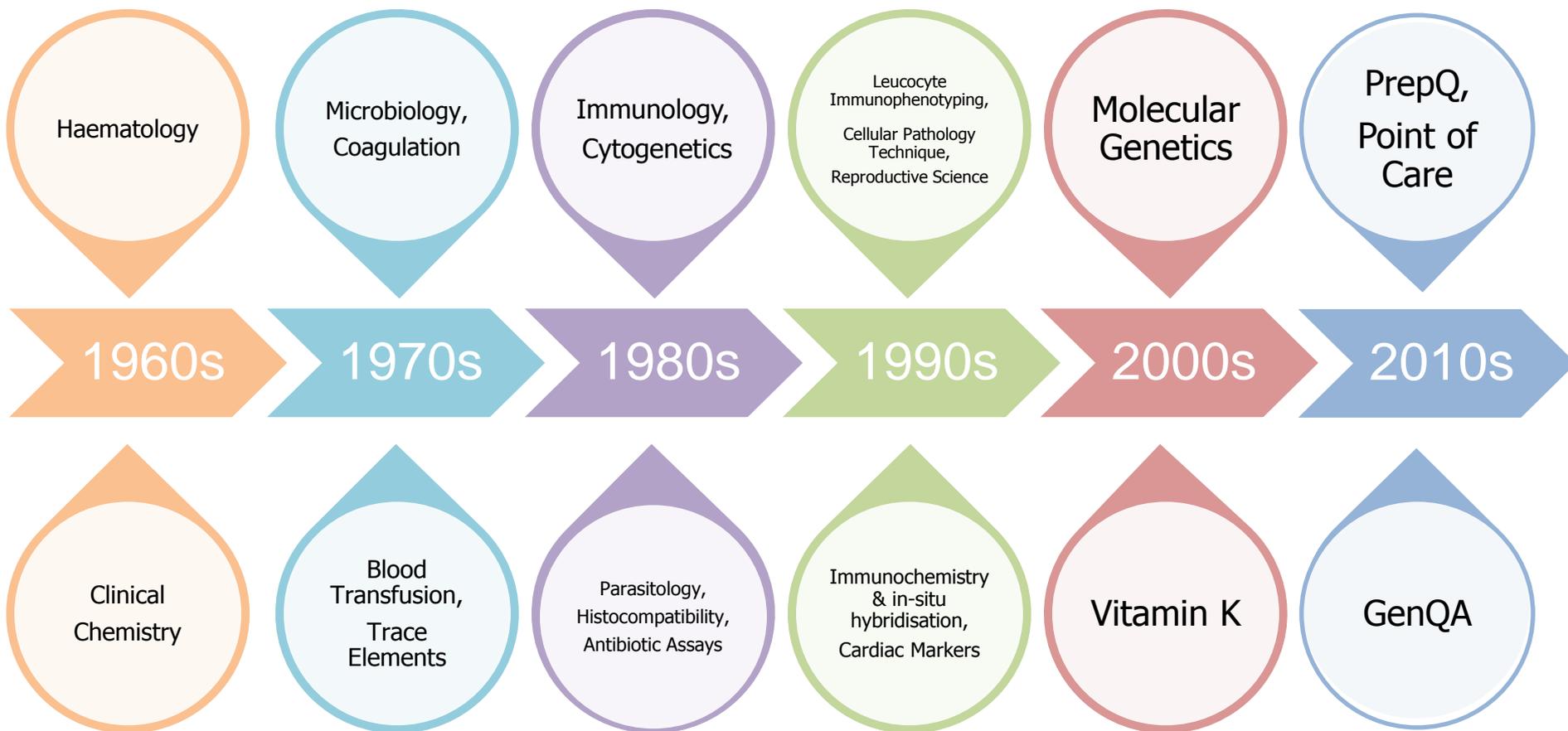
- Foundations of UK NEQAS laid in 1969 by
 - Professor Tom Whitehead in Clinical Chemistry
 - Dr. Mitchell Lewis in Haematology
- Funding of £3000 per annum for 3 years for haematology
 - Equivalent to £48000 today
- Funding of £500 from the Department of Health to fund the chemistry project for 2 years
 - Equivalent to £8000 today
- 'All issues will be resolved by then'
- 50 years later and we are still here

50 Years as World
Leaders in EQA
1969–2019

UK NEQAS
International Quality Expertise

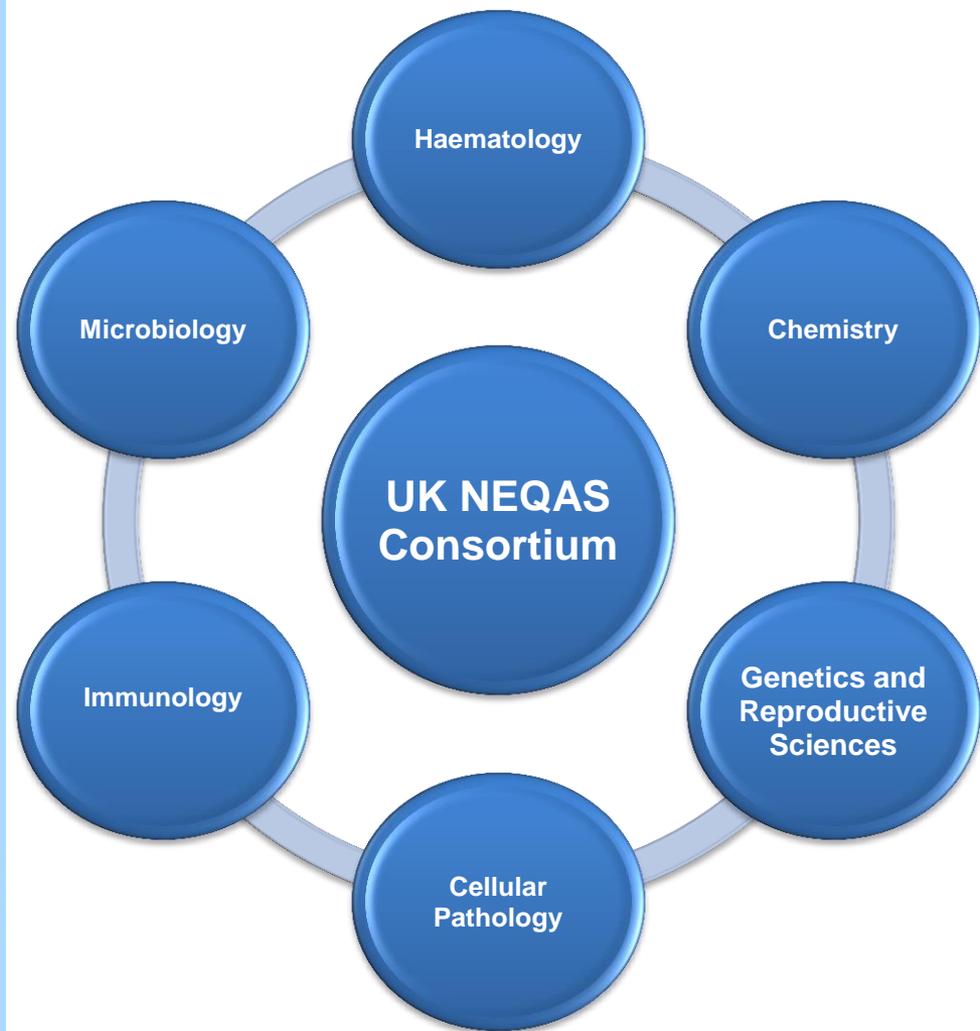
UK NEQAS: International EQA





50 Years as World
Leaders in EQA
1969-2019

UK NEQAS
International Quality Expertise



UK Charity number 1044013

UK NEQAS: Objectives

- Our mission is the provision of External Quality Assessment (EQA) that is
 - Appropriate for the needs of participants
 - Responsive
 - High standard

To provide laboratories with:

- interlaboratory comparisons
- relative performance of kits and methods
- factors associated with good and poor performance

The primary role of UK NEQAS is
educational

It's Not Just EQA- Current Activities

- Collaborate with UK and international organisations
 - WHO
 - Genomics England
 - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
 - International Council for Standardisation in Haematology
 - Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine
- Collaborate with industry
- Active Research & Development programmes
- Involved in the production of UK and international guidelines

Future Challenges

- New tests
- Pathology network consolidation
- Point of Care Testing
- Pre and Post analytical variable monitoring



Blood test



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10 Sep 2019



New blood test trialled on 12,000 Scots catches lung cancer early

...A new **blood test** can detect if a person has lung cancer before symptoms ever... implications for the early detection of lung cancer by showing how a simple **blood test**... group. Lung cancer-specific deaths were also lower in the group whose **blood**...

News | Scotland

2 Aug 2019



Alzheimer's blood test 'one step closer'

... towards a reliable **blood test** for Alzheimer's to speed up dementia research... of the **blood test** improved to 94%. Senior study author Randall J Bateman, professor... of progress in dementia research. "But it's important to note this isn't a **blood test**...

News | Health

2 Apr 2019



NHS to offer mums-to-be new blood test for pre-eclampsia

...Pregnant women in England will be able to get a new type of **blood test** to check... PLGF (placental growth factor) **blood test**, which costs about £70, show it speeds up...

News | Health

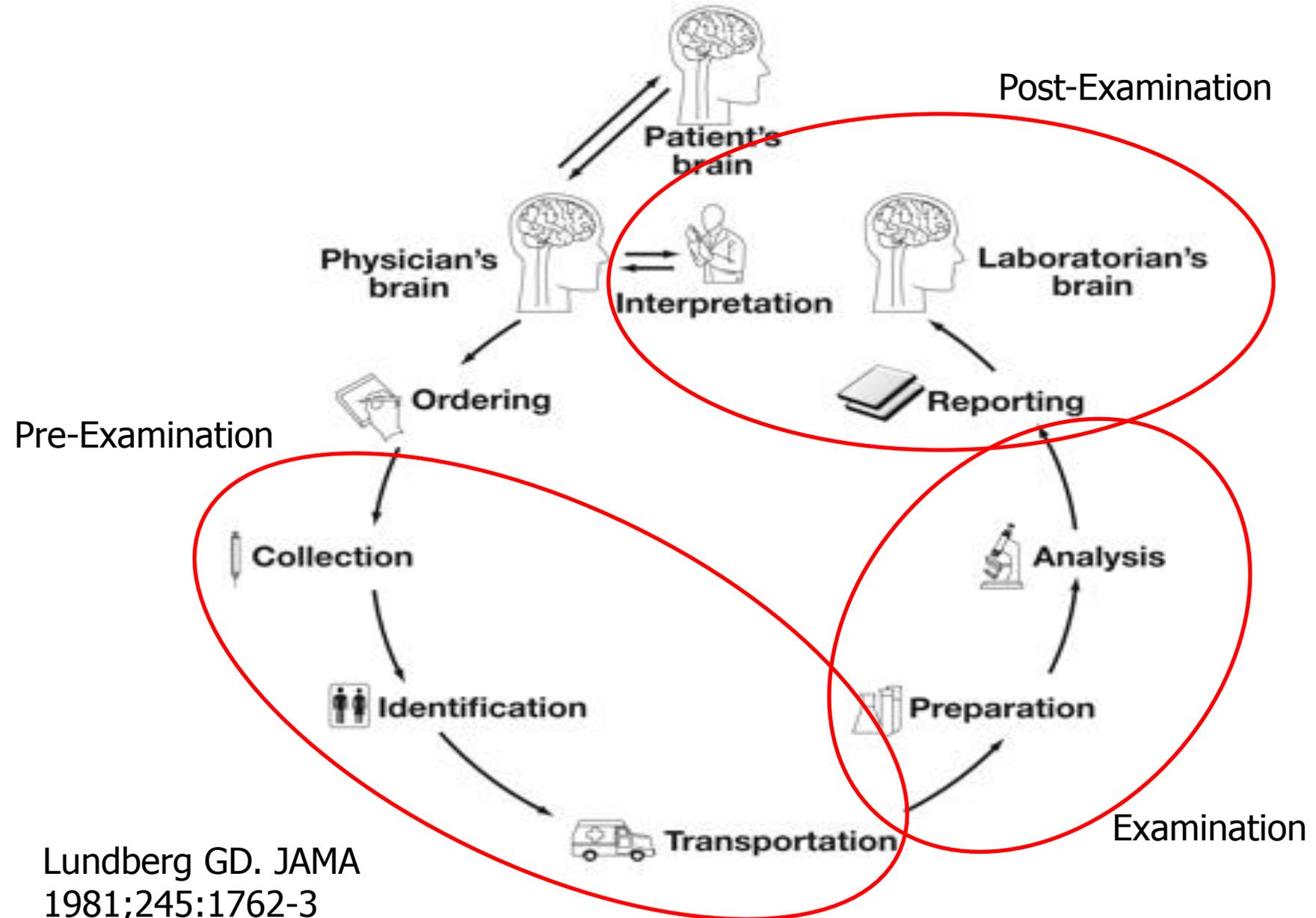
Pathology Networks

- New modes of EQA
 - Ensure consistency within networks
 - Different statistical models may be required
 - Different statistics to ensure programme viability
 - Referral models to replicate patient pathway
 - Challenging samples for central testing hubs
 - Reporting performance issues
 - To laboratory
 - To central hub
 - To the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panels

Point of Care Testing

- Challenges (for EQA and laboratories)
 - Who is doing the testing
 - What are they using
 - How are results reported
 - How are results integrated into records
 - Will they undertake EQA?
 - Reporting performance issues
 - To tester
 - To co-ordinator

Pre and Post Analytical Variables



Lundberg GD. JAMA
1981;245:1762-3

Pre and Post Analytical EQA: PREPQ

- Web based EQA programme
 - Benefit of membership for UK or ROI laboratories participating in UK NEQAS
- Laboratories report failures and rejections in
 - Patient identification
 - Sample identification
 - Sample collection
 - Sample volume
 - Storage and transport
 - Sample suitability (blood sciences or microbiology)
 - Blood culture (microbiology)
 - Turnaround time
 - Corrected reports
 - Critical result reporting
- For information email prepq@ukneqas.org.uk

Conclusion

- We've come a long way
- Challenging times ahead
 - But it is also exciting
 - Tremendous opportunities for laboratories and UK NEQAS to produce new styles of EQA
 - Keen to work with laboratories
 - Want to hear your views
- We need to work in unison to provide maximum benefit for patients