

UK

NEQAS

UK NEQAS FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEMES

Microbiology 40th Anniversary Meeting

London, 1 December 2011

UK NEQAS: A CRITICAL CLINICAL ACTIVITY

David Bullock

President, UK NEQAS

Organiser, UK NEQAS for Clinical Chemistry



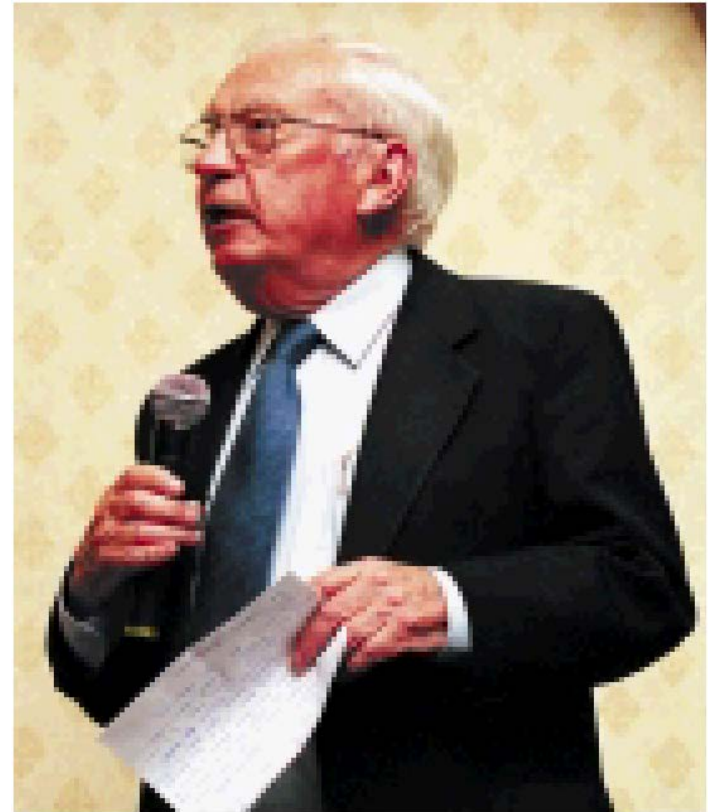
**W H O COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH & REFERENCE SERVICES IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY**

Birmingham Quality
Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre
Birmingham B15 2UE
UK

The origins of UK NEQAS



Professor Tom Whitehead (1923-2005)



UK NEQAS for Clinical Chemistry

- **Ministry of Health project proposal (1969)**
 - funding for a "**National Quality Control Scheme**"
 - research grant of £500
 - two-year duration
 - ***"all the problems will be corrected by then, so we will be able to stop"***

- **42 years on**
 - ongoing EQA is **still** essential . . .



UK NEQAS for General Haematology

- **Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust proposal (1968)**
 - research grant
 - £3,000 per year
 - three-year duration

THE NUFFIELD PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS TRUST
PATRON: H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

3 PRINCE ALBERT ROAD
LONDON, N.W. 1
GULLIVER 6632-5

15th November, 1968

M. Lewis

I am glad to tell you that at their meeting yesterday the trustees approved the offer of a grant of £3,000 a year for three years for the study set out in the memorandum sent with your letter to me dated 11th October. I would like to know how the proposed grant should be administered and by which authority, as soon as you can. Our normal process is to pay six monthly instalments in advance.

Kind regards,

[Handwritten signature]

Dr. M. Lewis,
Department of Haematology,
Postgraduate Medical School,
Ducane Road,
London, W.12.



then along came Microbiology . . .



UK NEQAS for Microbiology

- **Established 1971**
- **Funding from DH**
- **Initially at Neasden Hospital**
- **Relocated to PHLS Colindale**
 - later CPHL, then HPA Cfl, currently HPA IABS
 - tomorrow - Public Health England? . . .



The 'liberation' of UK NEQAS



DH and UK NEQAS

- **Thatcher ‘reforms’**
 - “Competition at the expense of comparability”
 - DH stepped back from direct management
- **Continuation as UK NEQAS Consortium**
 - local organisation and operation
 - central coordination and support
 - UK NEQAS Executive established
 - UK NEQAS Office created
- **UK NEQAS (‘PQA’) created as a Charitable company**



UK NEQAS Executive 1993

- **David Bullock** [*Chair*]
- **Jerry Snell** [*Secretary*]
- **Tony Milford Ward** [*Treasurer*]
- **Keith Miller**
- **Peter Phillips**
- **Tony Horn** [*DH*]



UK NEQAS Executive 2011

- **David Bullock** [*President*]
- **Tim Woods** [*Vice President*]
- **Vivienne James** [*Past Chair*]
- **Andy Lovering** [*Treasurer*]
- **Sue Corbin**
- **Andrew Dodson**
- **Malcolm Hamilton**
- **Finlay MacKenzie**
- **Dina Patel**
- **Cathie Sturgeon**
- **Julie Gelder** [*Company Secretary*]



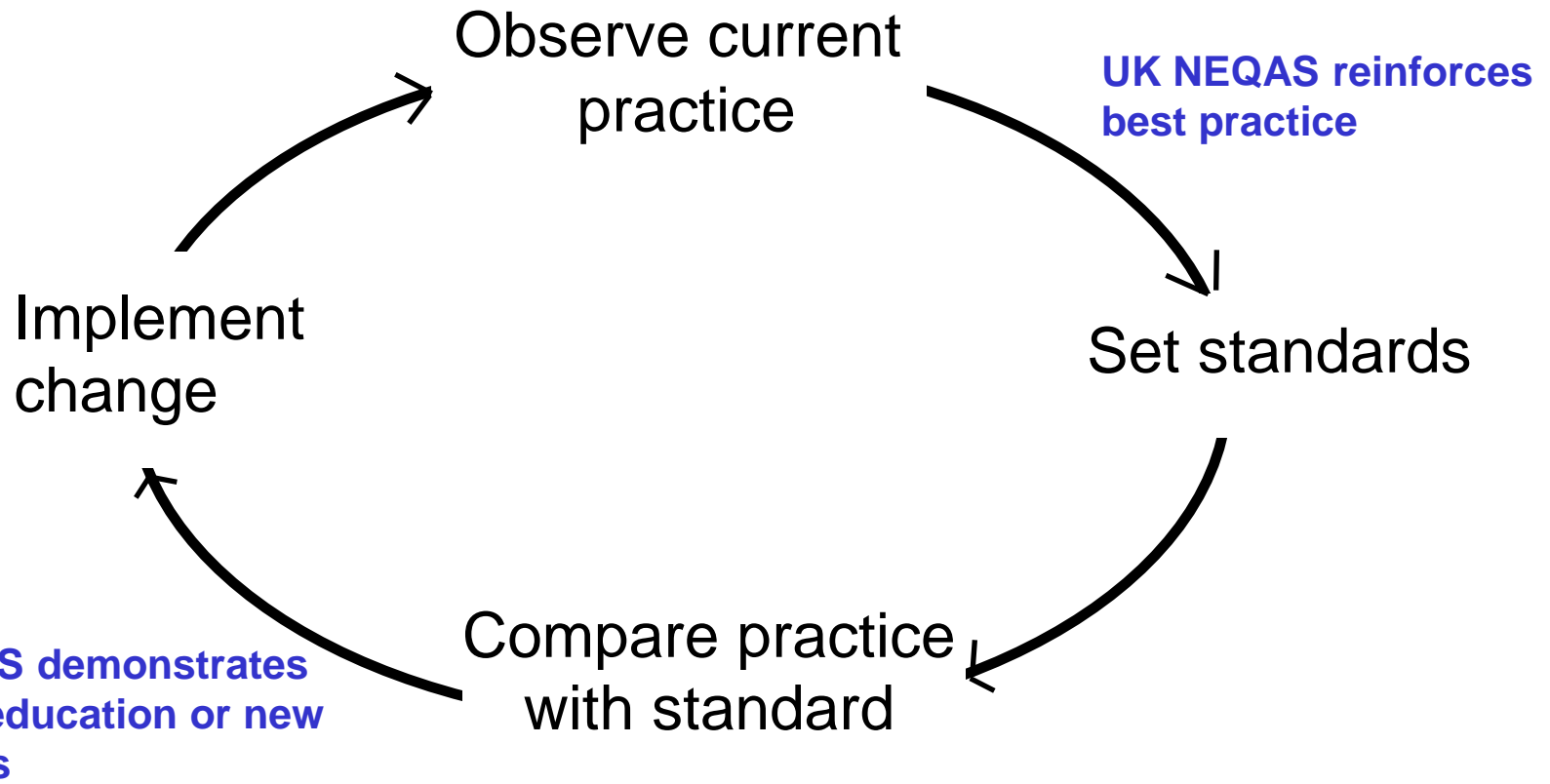
Inappropriate decision support systems



UK NEQAS to the rescue!



UK NEQAS as Audit - A Quality Improvement Cycle



The continuing value of UK NEQAS

If 70% of clinical decisions and 70-80% of healthcare dollars depend on laboratory medicine investigations, are these investigations really good enough?

UK NEQAS is critical in providing ongoing awareness, analysis and surveillance of the situation, supporting efforts to make all investigations fit for purpose . . .



40 YEARS OF QUALITY

