

DEVELOPING QUALITY COMPETENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORIES

## IFCC Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML)

## Symposium: Quality Practice and Process in Developing Countries Michael Thomas

## Introduction

The Association of Clinical Chemistry of Nigeria (ACCN) has been an active member of the IFCC community for some time. Their National Representative, Dr Mabel Charles-Davies expressed a wish at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid that DQCML with its extended role in sub-Saharan Africa might wish to consider delivering a workshop at their 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference on Quality issues and especially those relating to the implementation of Quality systems.

Dr Charles-Davies was invited to submit a formal application to IFCC and this was duly received and approved with the expressed objective of the visit being to understand how to sustain quality practice and process in developing countries and a focus on the implementation of External Quality Assurance.

#### **Programme for Visit**

A whole day programme was developed by DQCML that focussed especially on the initial components of the DQCML Quality Ladder particularly on IQC and EQA and the impact on patient safety.

The Local Organising Committee of the Conference under the chairmanship of Professor Oluwole Adedeji (NG) approved the programme and this was incorporated as a whole day symposium to be delivered on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, integrated into a three-day programme with the overarching theme of "Towards Sustainable Clinical Chemistry Practice for the Nation" from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

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The conference programme additionally included keynote lectures by national and international experts, sessions delivered by young scientists, which focussed particularly on their research achievements, sessions on non-communicable disease, traceability and Point of Care Testing, and a two-day optional molecular biology workshop. The full programme is referenced for review at: <a href="http://accnnigeria.org/conference/day%201.html">http://accnnigeria.org/conference/day%201.html</a>

The DQCML symposium was supported by well-known IFCC speakers from both the UK and Germany together with ACCN national speakers who were able to offer a local and, at times, frank and challenging perspective of the situation in Nigeria.

The symposium was split into two formal lecture sessions with two interactive workshops interleaved and the output from the first workshop informing the second.

Session 1: Assuring Quality in the Clinical Chemistry The opening session challenged delegates to consider where they found themselves on the Quality Ladder and was delivered by IFCC Past President, Graham Beastall (UK) who also chaired the whole symposium. Michael Thomas (UK), Chair of DQCML offered an overview of the building blocks of Quality Control and their impact on patient safety. The opening session ended with Cathie Sturgeon (UK) who gave a provider's perspective on the challenges of EQA schemes.

Workshop 1: Strategies to achieve compliance with QMS and QC-requirements

Following an impulse lecture from Egon Amann (DE), Chair of C-AQ, delegates were split into a number of groups and asked to identify the most significant issues challenging quality systems delivery in the country. This information was collated and summarised for use later in the symposium by the DQCML team.

Session 2: Quality challenges going forward: understanding the needs of Nigeria

The second formal session saw Cathie Sturgeon speak on the delivery of effective EQA which was followed by Graham Beastall (GB) who reviewed the further steps on the road to full laboratory accreditation and possible initiatives in Africa through SLIPTA. In a robust final lecture Emmanuel Agbedana (NG) identified the hurdles to be overcome and quality improvements needs of the country.

Workshop 2: Practical steps for improving quality in Nigeria The second workshop led by Cathie Sturgeon (GB) and Graham Beastall (GB) encouraged delegates to consider the practical steps in implementing quality improvements. This began with a feedback session from Michael Thomas (GB) that brought together the perceived challenges delegates had previously identified in Workshop 1 (see Appendix Two).

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Finally Graham Beastall (GB) and Cathie Sturgeon (GB) were joined by Mabel Charles-Davies (NG) to discuss and agree with delegates the outcome from the Symposium and what would be required to develop a national road map for the future and possible further interactions with the IFCC.

Concluding remarks:

Professor Maurizio Ferrari (IT), IFCC President, kindly brought the day to a close. Speakers were impressed by the enthusiasm, knowledge and full engagement of delegates in the symposium throughout the day.

The full programme format is given in Appendix One and cam also be seen via the link:

http://accnnigeria.org/conference/day%201.html

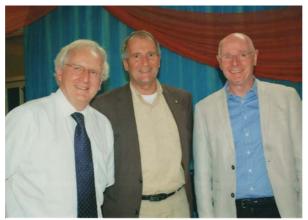
It is anticipated that the speaker abstracts will be published on the ACCN website in the near future.

#### Future Implications of the Symposium

A report from the National Member on the usefulness of the Symposium has not as yet been received. However it is anticipated that the outcome from the Symposium will see a request for further DQCML support as the National Member moves forward with its plans to improve the quality of laboratory services in Nigeria.

#### Acknowledgements

As Chair of DQCML I would wish to express my sincere and grateful thanks to all those who helped in the development and presentation of this DQCML Symposium: Graham Beastall, Egon Amann, Cathie Sturgeon and Maurizio Ferrari.



From the Left: Dr Graham Beastall, Professor Egon Amann and Dr Michael Thomas

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We are grateful to our hosts, the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria, and acknowledge the support of their President, Professor Adekunle Okesina and the Local Organising Committee led by Professor Oluwole Adedeji and his enthusiastic team in realising this very successful event.



From the Left: Dr Michael Thomas, Dr Graham Beastall, Dr Mabel Charles-Davies, Professor Maurizio Ferrari and Professor Egon Amann

In particular we would also acknowledge and are especially grateful to Dr Mabel Charles-Davies for her passion and enthusiasm in securing the DQCML visit to Nigeria and her care and attention during our stay in Lagos, Nigeria.

Michael Thomas 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016





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# Appendix One:

	Thursday, 13th October	
Sustai	ning Quality Practice and Process in Developir	ng Countries
Α	Symposium delivered on behalf of the DQCML initiativ	e of IFCC
	SESSION 1: Assuring Quality in the Clinical Laborat	
40.00.40.20	Developing a Quality System:	Graham Beastall
10:00-10:30am	Finding your place on the Quality Ladder	(Chair)
		()
10:30-11:00am	IQC: Building Blocks of Quality	Michael Thomas
	Local Systems of Quality Control	
	(Good laboratory practice and patient safety)	
11:00-11:30am	EQA: A Provider's Perspective	Cathie Sturgeon
11.00 11.000		
11:30-12:00 noon	COFFEE BREAK	
	Workshop:	
"What is th	e best strategy to achieve compliance with QMS- and	QC-requirements
	in the clinical laboratory?"	
	Total workshop time: 60 mins	
12.00-12.10pm	Impulse lecture "Compliance with Quality	Moderator: Egon Amann
	Systems". Present the agenda, aims and	
	instructions for activity	
12.10-12.20pm	Group forming with 5 - 8 participants per group	
	(Number of the groups depends on the availability	
	of participants). Then, a questionnaire is handed	
	out to the groups.	
12.20-12.40pm	Group discussion: Finding most burning top three	
	issues and listing those issues on flip charts.	
12.40-1.00pm	Concluding activity: Evaluating, deciding, and	
	listing actions.	
	Output of this workshop is input for the interactive	
	workshop below.	
1.00-2.00pm	LUNCH	
•	SESSION 2: Quality challenges going forward: underst the needs of Nigeria	anding
2.00-2.30pm	Delivering effective EQA	Cathie Sturgeon
2.30-3.00pm	Moving along the road to accreditation	Graham Beastall
3.00-3.30pm	Identified quality improvement needs. What are	Emmanuel O. Agbedana
	major hurdles?	
	Interactive Workshop:	
"Identify p	practical steps for improving quality in Clinical Laborat	tories in Nigeria"
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Moderators: Cathie Sturgeon, Graham Beastall	<b>0</b>
	Total workshop time: 60 mins	
		Graham Beastall,
3.30-4:30 pm	Workshop summary: Developing the road map	Cathie Sturgeon
		and
		Mabel A. Charles-Davies
4:30-4:45 pm	Concluding remarks	Maurizio Ferrari
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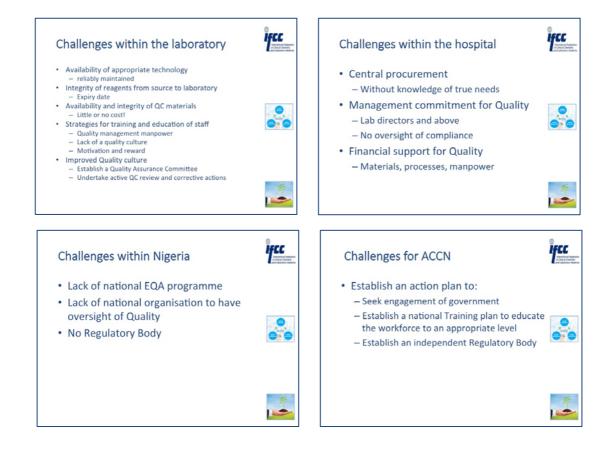






## **Appendix Two:**





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