

# 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*



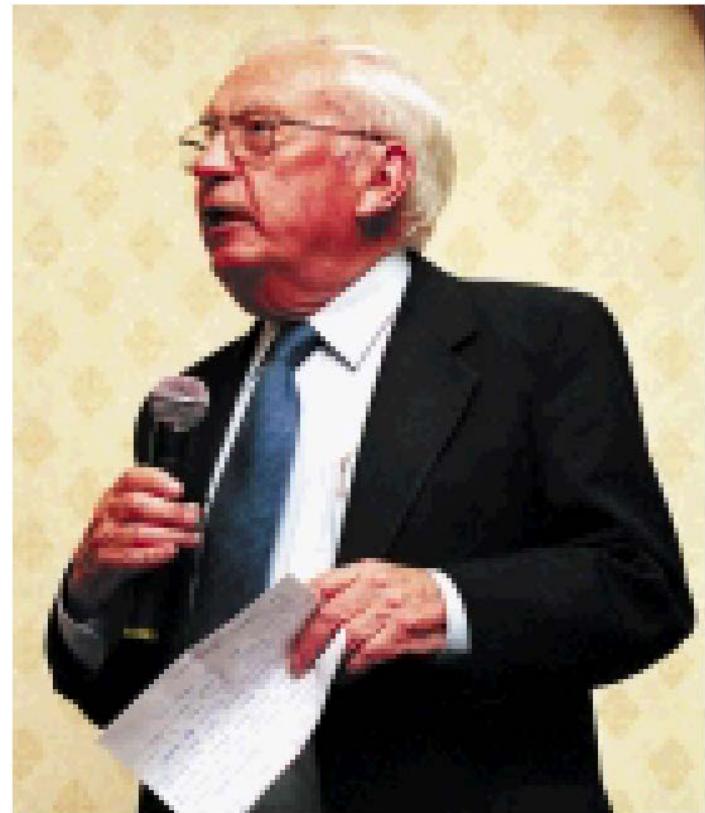
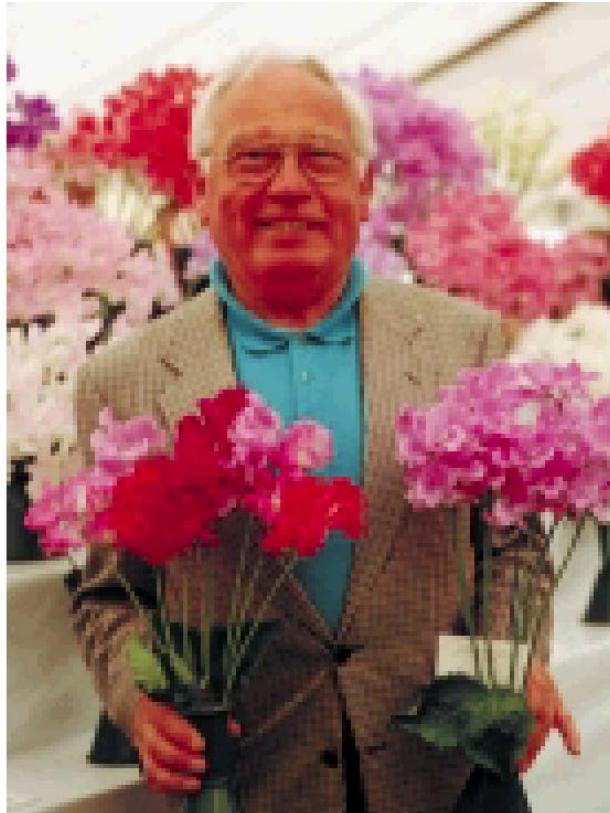
WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE  
FOR RESEARCH & REFERENCE SERVICES IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

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,

*John M. Lewis*

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*]



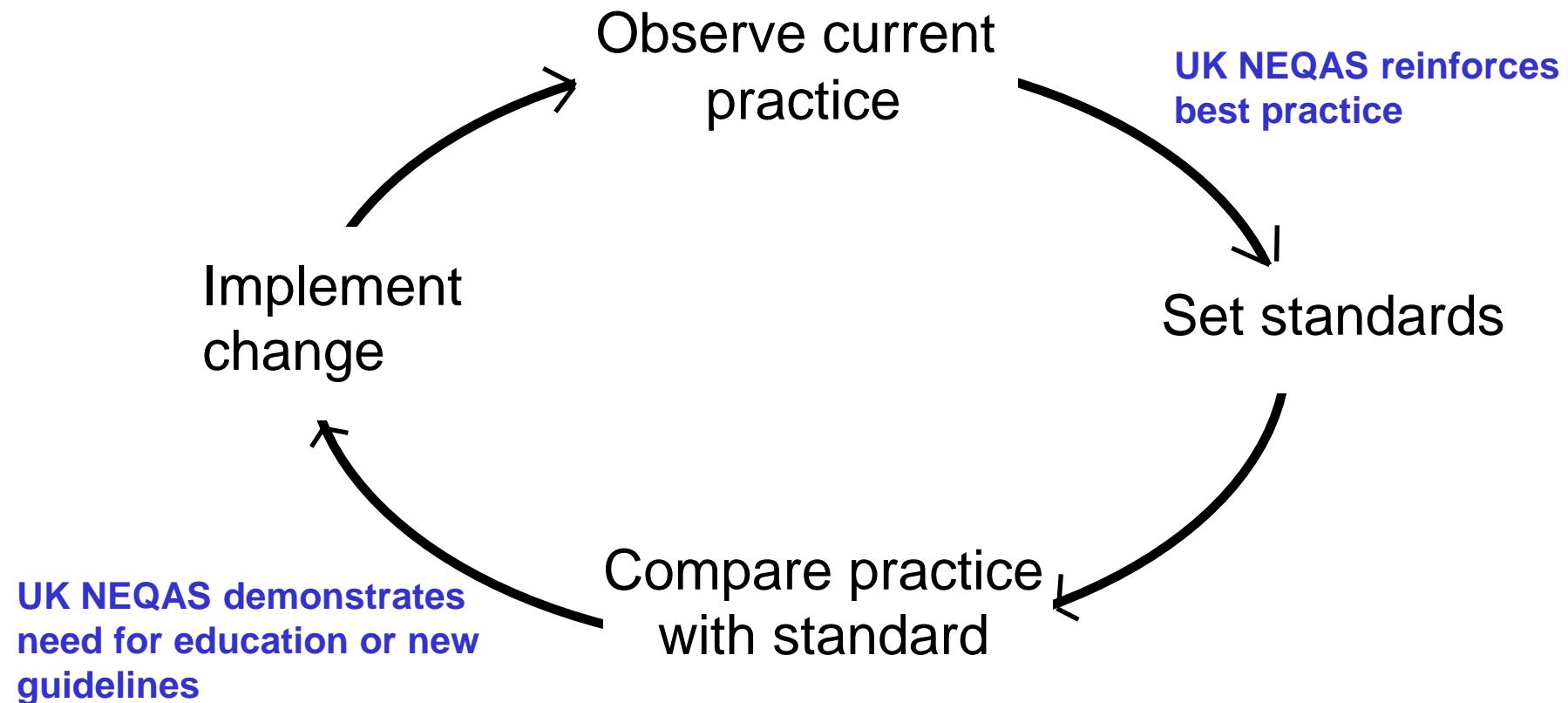
# Inappropriate decision support systems



# 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**

