

Joint Working Group for Quality Assurance  
Annual Report – 2008

The Joint Working Group for Quality Assurance (JWG) is a multidisciplinary group accountable to the Royal College of Pathologists for the oversight of performance in external quality assurance schemes (EQA) in the UK. Membership consists of the Chairs of the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panels (NQAAPs), the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, the Independent Healthcare Sector, the Department of Health and CPA (UK) Ltd.

In the last 12 months the JWG has met on 2.10.07, 20.1.08 and 25.6.08. Dr James Macartney was Chair until early June 2008 when Dr Alec Howat took over; the JWG warmly thank James for all his hard work as Chair of the group. Dr Howat's replacement as Chair of the Histopathology & Cytopathology NQAAP is Dr Katie Boyd. As well as the usual business of consideration of unresolved instances of persistent poor/substandard EQA performance, the last year has seen the JWG finalise two documents after discussion with interested parties:

1. JWG conditions of EQA Scheme Participation
2. JWG Terms of Reference

The final documents were sent out to Scheme Organisers and Providers on 11.8.08. The next meeting will be on 17.12.08. Dr Lance Sandle will be attending from the RCPATH to discuss how the JWG might become involved with issues of revalidation and recertification.

A J Howat  
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