

# **Joint Working Group for Quality Assurance**

Annual Report – 2009

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 Chairmen 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 17.12.08 and 17.6.09 both meetings being held at the British Society for Haematology. As well as the usual business of consideration of unresolved instances of persistent poor/substandard EQA performance, the Group has dealt with the following key issues:

1. Official recognition of the JWG as an RCPATH Committee; this has now been agreed and ratified by RCPATH Council.
2. Preparation of an evidence-based financial model for funding of JWG and NQAAP activities by EQA providers; invoices will be sent out via the RCPATH in the next few months.
3. Use of personal interpretive EQA for revalidation/recertification; this is being developed within several sub-specialties. Personal EQA is of course already well-established within Histopathology/Cytopathology.

Alec J Howat, Chairman JWG  
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