

Date: 14 March 2016

Dear UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Participant,

We are writing to update you on our activities and new price structure for 2016/2017.

The proposed dates for the assessment runs for the coming year are as follows:

**UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Assessment Runs For EQA Year: 2016 - 2017**

Run ICC/ISH	Slide Dispatch Date	Slide Return Date	Assessment Dates	Report Processing Dates
114/43	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June – 15 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> July
115/44	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	10 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct.
116/45	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2017	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb.
117/46	06 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar - 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	17 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr.

**These dates are subject to change; an email will be sent to all labs prior to the dispatch of slides.**

**Subscription Updates**

The UK NEQAS ICC & ISH scheme, whilst fulfilling the “not for profit” ethos of UK NEQAS, is continually having to manage the increasing cost of being based in London, increase in sample sourcing, preparation and testing costs and the escalating hosting charges imposed by University College London. The latter is apparently partly related to austerity measures suffered by many of the publicly funded institutions in the UK. The scheme has also moved into cheaper premises to further reduce its costs. As a consequence the scheme has had no alternative but to apply increases in the subscription charges to cover on-going costs.

- Price changes have been calculated on a ‘per module basis’ to make sure that each module can operate as a standalone module without subsidy from other modules.
- As usual we have tried to minimise these rises, with some modules not having any price increase, but other modules having to have an increase in subscription fees of between 5-15%.

**Our new address:**

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH, Finsbury Business Centre, 40 Bowling Green Lane, Room 127,  
London, EC1R 0NE, UK. Tel.: (+44) (0) 207 415 7065  
All participants should have received pre-printed address labels with their Run 113 slides. Templates are also available on the website: [www.uknegasiccish.org/downloads/](http://www.uknegasiccish.org/downloads/)

**Scheme Director (Mr Keith Miller) contact details:**

Poundbury Cancer Institute, Newborough House, 3 Queen Mother Square, Poundbury, Dorchester,  
Dorset DT1 3RZ, United Kingdom, Tel: 07548795116, **Email:** [k.miller@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.miller@ucl.ac.uk)

**New Quality Manager**

The scheme is pleased to welcome our new Quality Manager Seema Dhanjal who was appointed in January. Seema can be contacted by e-mail ([seema.dhanjal@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:seema.dhanjal@ucl.ac.uk)) or via the UK NEQAS office telephone number: (+44) (0) 207 415 7065.

**ISO 17043 Accreditation**

- UK NEQAS ICC & ISH was visited by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) for initial accreditation under ISO/IEC 17043:2010 in February this year. Subject to resolving a few minor issues, the scheme should be ISO 17043 accredited for the majority of its modules in the coming months. We will keep you updated.

**Forthcoming Modules**

- The scheme is currently planning and preparing the introduction of a PD-L1 module. In preparation for the challenges ahead with PD-L1, Dr Merdol Ibrahim has already participated and completed training for both the Dako 28-8 and 22C3 IHC markers.
- There are also plans for an ALK NSCLC FISH module.



### **Barcodes on Slides**

We have decided to suspend the use of barcodes for the time being. We still prefer labs not to use their own labels where this is possible.

### **Surveys**

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH will continue to send surveys throughout the year in order to gain feedback and data on various aspects of its activities; e.g. antibody repertoire, user survey and module specific surveys.

### **Formation of the Cancer Diagnostic Quality Assurance Service CIC to support Education & Training for UKNEQAS Participants**

CADQAS is a community interest company set up by the Scheme Director and Dr Sarah Wedden as an independent “not for profit” Training Centre for the UKNEQAS Participants. The educational programmes being created at CADQAS are replacing those that were provided through the weekend meetings that we used to run in Windsor, Dublin and Coventry. Also CADQAS will organise practical workshops that will replace those previously provided through the University of Westminster. The Training Centre is based in Poundbury, Dorset and the area was chosen as it is relatively inexpensive and the facilities available are excellent. Contact Keith Miller for further details ([k.miller@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.miller@ucl.ac.uk)).

Yours sincerely,



Manager UK NEQAS ICC & ISH

&



Director UK NEQAS ICC & ISH