

A TOWERING PERFORMANCE! **UK NEQAS ICC & ISH: Autumn Conference 2018**

**21st Century Slide Based Pathology & Molecular Diagnostics:
From the Laboratory to the Patient**

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Autumn Conference 2018: Tower Hotel, London - November 9th-11th



UK NEQAS ICC & ISH held its first major conference since the Windsor meeting back in 2012, at the Tower Hotel, London, in early November 2018. Over 140 delegates (excluding trade), from around the globe, consisting of a mixture of UK NEQAS ICC & ISH participants, pathologists, and other scientific staff, enjoyed a successful weekend of highly informative talks, presentations and workshops; accompanied by an excellent social programme.

The conference was further enhanced by the presence of 13 trade stands, and around 40 representatives, from a variety of companies, whose support and sponsorship added greatly to the weekend.

The event was focused on the many changes occurring in the field and these included current and new companion diagnostics and their related therapies. Also advances in digital pathology, the need to improve pre-analytics, improvements in handling cytological samples and aspects of EQA.

Friday afternoon

The meeting was formally opened by **Keith Miller**, UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Scheme Director; which was followed by an address from **Liam Whitby**, UK NEQAS President-Elect. Liam outlined the structure and purpose of UK NEQAS, and its importance to the profession.

The first session continued with a series of talks under the banner **Lung Cancer: Pathology, personalised therapy & related biomarkers** given by **Dr Phillippe Taniere**, **Dr Shobhit Bajjal**, and **Suzanne Parry**.

The rest of the Friday programme was split into two separate sessions: (1) **Presentations by commercial companies** given by **Nikos Lioutas**, MSD UK, and **Dr Ian Milton**, Histocyte Laboratories; and (2) **PD-L1 Biomarkers in Bladder Cancer and Personalised Healthcare** presented by **Dr Mark Kockx**, **Dr Phillippe Taniere**, **Dr Corrado D'Arrigo**, and **Professor Syed Hussain**

The day finished with an informal buffet dinner in the Tower Suite, overlooking the Thames.

Saturday

Visits to the Trade continued before proceedings, and was interspersed throughout the day, during coffee breaks, and an excellent buffet lunch.

The programme for Saturday again consisted of two parallel sessions: In Conference Room 1: **Targos & Roche Joint Symposium: Predictive Cancer Pathology of Lung & Urothelial Cancer** consisting primarily of talks, and incorporating workshops on PD-L1. Speakers were: **Dr Eslie Dennis**, **Professor Bharat Jasani** (who also gave the Gerry Reynolds Memorial Lecture), **Dr Gudrun Baenfer**, **Dr Erik Thunnissen**, **Dr Kathrina Alexander**, **Dr Rolf Diezko**, and **Dr Bryce Portier**.

Conference Room 2 held a session titled: **Targos & UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Joint Symposium: Predictive Cancer Pathology of Breast & GI Tract Cancer** presentations were given by: **Professor Josef Rueschoff**, **Dr Ian Frayling**, **Professor Mark Arends**, **Andrew Dodson**, **Jamie Hughes**, and **Hilary McBride**.



Professor Bharat Jasani of Targos, and Dr Eslie Dennis of Roche, Arizona, introducing the joint Targos & Roche Symposium.

The final part of this session had a series of **Selected Topics** with talks given by **Dr Mark Kockx**, **Julia Pagliuso**, and **Dr Sarah Wedden**.

These concluded the educational proceedings for day 2.



Professor Josef Rueschoff of Targos giving an update on HER2

On the Saturday evening a Gala Dinner with Entertainment was held in the main Conference Room. A pleasant three course meal with wine, was followed by some lively entertainment, with a comedian starting proceedings, followed by a 6 piece band which kept everyone happy until the wee small hours.

Sunday Morning

Sunday morning consisted of a single session of talks, held in Conference Room 1, and divided into two themes: (1) **Digital Pathology**, with talks given by **Dr Bethany Williams**, and **Martin Kristensson**; and (2) **Selected Topics**, with presentations by **Dr Jenni Fairley**, **Dr Guy Orchard**, and **Dr Patricia Carrigan**.

Workshops

Throughout the weekend a number of workshops were held outside of the main conference lecture halls. These were housed in smaller meeting rooms on the 12th floor of the hotel, and designed for an audience of about 20 participants.

The first of these was held during Saturday lunchtime: **Visiopharm Workshop: Digital Image Analysis for Clinical and Quality Control Measurements** which was run by **Andreas Schönau**. This proved a popular lunchtime session.

Sunday morning saw two more workshops on the 12th floor: (1) **Roche Digital Slide Viewing and Education** (in the Discovery Room) consisting of five short sessions, each of 35 minutes, and overseen by **Dr Richard Huang** and **Dr Bryce Portier**; and (2) **Non-Gynae Workshop: Is Brown/Red Good Enough** (Britannia Room) run jointly by **Dr Irena Srebotnik Kirbis** and **Neil Bilbe**.

Both these well received sessions continued until 1 pm, after which everyone went downstairs to lunch before departing.

To access or download any of the talks, email: nbilbe@ukneqasiccish.org

N.B. Not all presentations are available, due to various restrictions.

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH would like to thank all the speakers, the Trade, MeetingVoice for organising much of the event, along with the excellent AV support, all of which helped to make this a successful and highly productive weekend conference.