



Theme: EQA for the end-user

Wednesday, October 15th

09.00 – 11.30 Registration

11.30 - 12.20 Lunch

Room Oud Meesters

Time	Lecture	Speaker
Session: Data Science – EQA and the Laboratory		
Chair Rachel Marrington		
12.20	Opening of the Symposium	Gro Gidske (EQALM chair)
12.30 - 13.10	The Role of EQA in Quality Assurance, what is Needed and Expected from EQA Providers	Ian Godber (United Kingdom)
13.10 - 13.50	The Role of EQA in the Future	Michael Neumaier (Germany)

Working Group (WG) and Task and Finish Group (TFG) - open meetings

Time	WG / TFG	Chair	Room
14.10 - 14.55	WG: Performance Specifications	Marc Thelen	Oud Meesters
Status of existing projects - Exchangeability project New projects - Doctor awareness of impact of analytical performance on clinical classification, plans for a survey. - Catalogue project: making different schemes for the same measurand comparable. - Different definitions of state of the Art, plans for a survey			
14.10 - 14.55	WG: Immunology	Dina Patel	Jan Steen

The aim of the Immunology Working Group is to collaborate with other EQALM members to try to understand how immunology practices/tests are utilised within member countries. A survey was circulated to EQALM members in early 2025, to gather information for the relevant ANA EQA programs. The results from the survey highlighted variability in the content and design of autoimmunity EQA programs offered and the potential inability of detecting performance issues. The survey results will be the main topic of discussion.



Program for the EQALM Symposium 2025

Fletcher Hotels, Leiden, Netherlands

October 15th-17th

Working Group (WG) and Task and Finish Group (TFG) - open meetings

Time	WG / TFG	Chair	Room
14.55 - 15.40	WG: Virtual Microscopy	Istvan Juhos	Oud Meesters
<p>The EQALM Virtual Microscopy Working Group (VM) promotes the use of virtual microscopy in EQA and education and the establishment of a collaboration framework for EQALM members that enables the sharing, use, and harmonisation of VM samples and related services. This year, the WG is conducting an EQALM VM Interlaboratory Research Study involving several countries and other EQALM WGs, using the EQALM VM Sharing Database and Platform. Alongside its joint and comprehensive perspective, the study delivers in-depth insights into laboratory performance and advanced support for educational use. This session will also discuss the ongoing structural transition of the WG, driven by the initiation of collaborative VM service provision across member organisations. Symposium participants are invited to join the discussion and contribute to shaping the future of collaborative digital quality assessment within the EQALM community.</p>			
14.55 - 15.40	WG: EQA for POCT	Tony Badrick	Jan Steen
<p>The SKUP (Scandinavian evaluation of laboratory equipment for point of care testing) approach to the assessment of POCT devices. The different approaches of hospitals and physicians in their offices dealing with the governance of POCT devices. An open discussion on EQA for POCT.</p>			
15.40 - 16.00	Break		
16.00 – 16.45	WG: Haematology	Barbara De la Salle	Jan Steen
<p>The Haematology Working Group steering committee encourages all with an interest in haematology to attend the meeting. We will discuss the work completed this year on reference intervals in automated counting and the collaborative project with the virtual microscopy working group. We will also discuss a potential new project on the state of the art of Hb A2 measurement. Please come along to hear about the WG work, to propose new activities and to consider joining the committee.</p>			
16.00 – 16.45	WG: Frequency	Wim Coucke	Oud Meesters
<p>The results of the brainstorm about factors that determine optimal quality of EQA schemes that was held last year and has been continuing via email, will be presented.</p>			
16.45 - 17.15	WG: Infection diagnostics	Jaap van Hellemond	Oud Meesters
<p>The Working Group Infection Diagnostics will focus on the first projects that have been initiated after restart of the working group in 2024. An update will be presented on the current status of the projects (survey to prepare an overview of existing EQA schemes, use of virtual microscopy in infection diagnostics, and EQA and preparedness for new pandemics). The WG is open for recruitment of additional members and we look forward to your participation and valuable contributions.</p>			



Working Group (WG) and Task and Finish group (TFG) - open meetings

Time	WG / TFG	Chair	Room
16.45 - 17.15	WG: Haemostasis	Ann Helen Kristoffersen	Jan Steen
<p>The results and conclusion of the data evaluation of EQA for routine coagulation tests will be presented/discussed. In addition, follow-up projects on HIL in coagulation and the EQA's role in improving this phase for coagulation tests will be discussed. Information will be given on the status of INR standardization and consequences for EQA. Suggestions for new projects in EQA and haemostasis are welcome.</p>			
17.15 - 17.45	WG: ISO/IEC 17043: 2023	Stephanie Albarede	Oud Meesters
<p>A number of EQA providers have transitioned to the ISO/IEC 17043:2023, but there are still some who are in the process. It was decided to continue with this group and in 2025 we have been focusing on key areas of the revised standard with dedicated interactive workshops. These have been extremely successful, and we would like to know how we can continue to support EQA providers in 2026. We propose expanding the remit of this TFG to include revision of 13528 – Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons.</p>			
17.15 - 17.45	WG: Immunohaematology	Christoph Buchta	Jan Steen
<p>The Immunohaematology working group session will cover the anti-D sensitivity project report.</p>			

Time 18.00 - 18.30

Room Oud Meester

Meeting Regarding Feedback on EQALM's Proposed Amendments to the Articles of Association

Chair Barbara De la Salle

During this meeting, we will review the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association and address any questions on the voting procedures.

EQALM Board



Thursday, October 16th

Room Oud Meesters

Time	Lecture	Speaker
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Session: COMET Workshop

Chair Piet Meijer

08.30 - 08.50	The COMET Multiparameter Commutability Study	Vincent Delatour (France)
08.50 - 09.10	The Commutability Study for POCT Glucose Testing	Sverre Sandberg (Norway) Anne Stavelin (Norway)
09.10 - 09.30	Data Aggregation by Using the EQALM Central Database: Challenges in Combining Data from Different EQA Providers	Wim Coucke (Belgium)

09.30 - 09.50 Short Break

Breakout Discussion Session

Chair Gitte Henriksen

09.50 - 10.00	Groups and Presentation of the Session	
10.00 - 10.10	Presentation of topic 1: <i>Who are the End-Users and How can we Support Them?</i>	Michael Spannagl (Germany)
10.10 - 10.35	Discussion in Groups	
10.35 - 11.00	Plenary Report	

11.00 - 11.20 Short Break

Breakout Discussion Session

Chair Gitte Henriksen

11.20 - 11.30	Presentation of Topic 2: <i>How do we Promote EQA as a Key Component of Quality Improvement Rather than a must do for Accreditation?</i>	Jonna Pelanti (Finland)
11.30 - 11.55	Discussion in Groups	
11.55 - 12.20	Plenary Report	

12.20 - 13.15 Lunch



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Session: News from Working Groups and Task and Finish Groups

Chair Barbara De la Salle

13.15 - 13.45	EQALM Virtual Microscopy Interlaboratory Research Study 2025	Istvan Juhos (Hungary), Stephanie Albarede (France) Jaap van Hellemond (The Netherlands)
13.45 - 14.00	Can Theoretical Models for Determining IQC Frequency be Used for Determining EQA Frequency?	Tony Badrick (Australia)
14.00 - 14.15	TFG: ISO/IEC 17043 - Organization of Workshops	Rachel Marrington (United Kingdom)

14.15 - 14.45 Break

14.20 – 14.40 Meet the Poster Presenters

EQALM General Assembly

Chair Gro Gidske

14.45 - 15.45 EQALM General Assembly

Adam Uldall Lecture

Chair Gro Gidske

16.00 - 17.00	A group is more than the sum of its members. Opportunities to utilise group and communication potential for the benefit of stakeholders of EQA	Christoph Buchta (Austria)
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Social Event

Museum tour and dinner at the Boerhaave Museum

18.00 Gathering in the hotel hall – walk together to the museum

18.30 Welcome drink at the museum

19.00 Start tour through museum, followed by a dinner buffet



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Time	Lecture	Speaker
Abstract Session		
Chair Pierre-Alain Morandi		
09.00 - 09.15	TBA – Abstract Presentation	
09.15 - 09.30	TBA – Abstract Presentation	
09.30 - 09.45	TBA – Abstract Presentation	
09.45 - 10.00	TBA – Abstract Presentation	
10.00 - 10.15	TBA – Abstract Presentation	
10.15 - 10.50	Break	

Session: Collaboration Together for Better Patient Outcomes

Chair Wim Coucke

10.50 - 11.40	Quality Indicators for the Pre and Post Analytical Phase	Gregor Pairoux (Belgium), Tony Badrick (Australia), Finlay MacKenzie (United Kingdom)
11.40 - 12.20	Laboratory Medicine in this Regulatory Era: from Evolution to Revolution.	Christa Cobbaert (The Netherlands)
12.20	Closing of the EQALM Symposium 2025	Gro Gidske (EQALM Chair)



The Symposium is under the Auspices of IFCC

GH 2025-06-12
Subject to change