



President's Bulletin

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

March 2016

Issue 2016:1

[Contact Me](#)



Executive

President

Dr G McCreanor
[@ACBPresident](#)

Past President

Prof E S Kilpatrick

Director of Publications & Communications / Company Secretary

Mr P Newland

Director of Finance

Dr W J Marshall

Director of Education, Training & Workforce

Dr F G Boa

Director of Scientific Affairs

Dr C Chaloner
[@SciCom_odo](#)

Director of Clinical Practice

Dr M J O'Kane

Director of Regulatory Affairs

Dr A P Taylor

Non-Executive Director

Ms C F Baillie

Upcoming Meetings:

2 March 2016

ACB Scotland Region
Scientific Meeting & AGM

14 March 2016

ACB NW Ian Ward
Members' Papers
Meeting

15 March 2016

Joint ACB Wales & SWW
Scientific Meeting

15 April 2016

ACB Northern Ireland
Spring Scientific Meeting



Operational Productivity and Performance in English NHS Acute Hospitals: Unwarranted Variations

Lord Carter's review was published in February 2016. The report estimates that there is unwarranted variation across trusts which may be worth £5bn in terms of efficiency opportunity, this amounts to a potential contribution of at least 9% on the £55.6bn spent by our acute hospitals. The report makes 15 recommendations designed to tackle variation and help trusts improve their performance to match the best. The full review can be found [here](#)

One of the recommendations relates to Pathology, suggesting that providers are considered productive if the cost of pathology to the trust is less than 1.6% of operating expenditure. Data gathered from a series of trusts suggests a two-fold variation in the current cost of Pathology.

The RCPATH has produced a very reasoned response suggesting that the absence of reliable data makes comparison of trust expenditure difficult and that not all consolidation has been beneficial. See the full response on the [RCPATH website](#).

Pathology Quality Assurance Review (PQAR) Update

The review recommended a series of actions and to date the only ongoing activity is the Pathology Quality Assurance Dashboard (PQAD). Professional bodies have had very little input until recently. Version 9 was piloted at 22 Trusts in England and that version was showcased at the FILM meeting in January.

The ACB has fed back comments and concerns and it appears some of these have been taken into account in version 10. We await even more improvements when version 11 arrives and Phil Hudson, who is involved in drafting the KPIs, will be attending ACB Council at the end of March to discuss the dashboard.

Dr Ian Barnes

Congratulations to Ian Barnes who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the CSO Conference Award ceremony in London on 29th February. Very well deserved achievement.

Focus 2016 will be held in Warwick in April and the organisers have put together an exciting programme -

<http://www.focus-acb.org.uk/>

This will be our first paperless Focus meeting, so charge up your phone or tablet and download the Focus app for all the information you need at your fingertips. Look forward to seeing you there.

Dr Gwyn McCreanor, President

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Better Science, Better Testing, Better Care