

# ACADEMY OF CLINICAL SCIENCE & LABORATORY MEDICINE HAEMATOLOGY ADVISORY BODY

## Members

Norma Reidy, (Chair) Cork University Hospital  
Laura Halligan. Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin  
Eleanor Hennessy, University Hospital, Waterford  
Carol Lenihan, University Hospital, Limerick  
Ciaran Mooney, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin  
Joan O'Hara. University College Hospital, Galway  
Irene Regan, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin  
Claire Wynne, Dublin Institute of Technology

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2016

The Haematology Advisory Body (HAB)'s activities in 2016 were as follows:

The Advisory Body held one blood cell morphology workshop in Cork on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 which was very successful and oversubscribed. The workshop was held at Cork Institute of Technology, it was organised by Dr Norma Reidy and co presented by Dr Cleona Duggan, Consultant Haematology Consultant Cork University Hospital and Dr Mary Ryan, Haematology Consultant, Cork University Hospital. A report on the workshop was published in Converse. The workshop was fully subscribed and received very positive feedback from participants.

The Advisory Body organised a scientific program in haematology for BioMedica bi-annual conference and exhibition held at the RDS Dublin on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. The theme was "Coming of Age". The first speaker was Mr Brian Kelleher, Quality Manager, St James's Hospital Dublin, who presented a talk titled "*Raising the Bar*" in *Laboratory Accreditation – How far have we come and where are we going?*. This presentation was followed by Dr Barbara Wild, Haemoglobinopathy Specialist Consultant, UK NEQAS, Watford, United Kingdom who presented on the subject of "*Newborn Sickle Screening and DNA for Haemoglobinopathies: The UK NEQAS Experience*". The last speaker who very kindly stepped in at late notice was Dr Irene Regan, Chief Medical Scientist in Coagulation at Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin and current President of the ACSLM who gave a very interesting presentation on "Paediatric Coagulation".

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 a "Parasitology Workshop" was held at Cork Institute of Technology. This workshop was organised by Dr Norma Reidy in association with Professor Mary Cahill and The National Specialist Training Scheme for Haematology Registrars in Ireland.

The course was presented by Ms Claire Rogers, Principal Biomedical Scientist, Hospital for Tropical Diseases London and was open to Medical Scientists and Haematology Specialist Registrars SpR's. The course was fully subscribed and feedback from the course was excellent with all attendees deeming it to be one of the best parasitology workshops they had ever attended.

In October 2016, the Advisory Body organised a dedicated laboratory science program for the Haematology Association of Ireland (HAI) annual meeting at the Radisson Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath. The laboratory session at the HAI event continues to be very successful with a very large attendance from medical scientists, researchers and clinicians. The laboratory session was chaired by Dr. Norma Reidy, Senior Medical Scientist, Cork University Hospital and Chairperson of the Haematology Advisory Body.

The first presentation was a Joint Laboratory/Main session on the “Emergence of new diagnostics in MDS” presented by Dr. Catherine Cargo, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, NHS Trust UK.

The first Laboratory presentation “Molecular Monitoring of CML” was presented by Dr Mark Catherwood, Clinical Scientist/ Lecturer at Belfast City Hospital/Queens University Belfast.

This was followed by a presentation on The Explorative Utility of Flow Cytometry: Clinical Case Studies presented by Ms Pauline Crosby, Senior Medical Scientist, St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin.

In the final presentation some very interesting Coagulation Case-Studies were presented by Ms Carolyn Holt, Senior Medical Scientist, University Hospital Limerick, Four excellent research/masters presentations were also presented by Julie Brennan, Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Agnieszka Blum, Institute of Medical Immunology, Charité University, Berlin, Germany, Eadaoin Callaghan Haematology Laboratory, Naas General Hospital, Co. Kildare and Tamawar Jayawardene, Haematology/Blood Transfusion Department, University Hospital Waterford.

A report and summary of the above presentations was published in Converse.

The advisory body again contributed to the Academy’s expanded website content, with a greater range of CPD activities and this was led by Mr Ciaran Mooney of the Rotunda Hospital and HAB member.

The Academy continued its affiliation to the International Council for Standardisation in Haematology (ICSH) in 2016. The chairperson is Mr Richard McCafferty, Chief Medical Scientist, St James’s Hospital, Dublin.

The Advisory body established a working Group in August 2016 for National Guidelines for Validation and Verification in Haematology Laboratories. The working group includes Chairperson Dr Norma Reidy, Cork University Hospital, Mr William Quirke, University Hospital Limerick, Mr Ciaran Mooney, Rotunda Hospital, Ms Mairead O’Reilly, Cork University Hospital, Ms Claire Wynne, Dublin Institute of Technology. The Advisory Body aims to have these guidelines available in early 2017.

Dr. Norma Reidy  
Chairperson, Haematology Advisory Body.  
February 2017.