

# Annual Participants Meeting 2026

## Strengthening Laboratory Performance: Insights from EQA

Friday 8th May 2026, Pennine Lecture Theatre, City Campus, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield

UK NEQAS

Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy

9.00-10.00	Registration, refreshments and Networking	
10.00-11.30	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Chair: Sarah Linstead</b>
10.00-10.20	<b>The Smart Laboratory: How Automation and AI Shape Our Future</b> Dr Ian Godber, President for Association of Laboratory Medicine, QEUH, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
10.20-10.40	<b>Making Assessment Count: Strengthening Quality Improvement Pathways</b> Mr Darren Edwards, UKAS	
10.40-11.00	<b>Labgnostic EQA: Usage Insights and User Experiences</b> Scott Vardy & Labgnostics user	
11.00-11.30	Discussion, Q&A	
11.30-12.00	Refreshments and networking	
12.00-13.30	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Chair: Adrian Heaps</b>
12.00-12.20	<b>The Story Behind the Numbers: Free Light Chain Testing and Patient Impact</b> Dr Daniel Payne, Consultant Clinical Scientist, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
12.20-12.40	<b>Cross reactivity in Allergy Diagnostics: What Lab Scientists Need to Know</b> Dr Ravishankar Sargur, UK NEQAS IIA, Sheffield	
12.40-13.00	<b>Why PSA Variation Matters: Understanding the Patient Impact</b> Abel Tesfai, Prostate Cancer UK	
13.00-13.30	Discussion, Q&A	
13.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.30	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Chair: Lesley Buswell</b>
14.30-14.50	<b>EQA Hot topics: Innovations, Challenges and Future Directions</b> Mrs Dina Patel, UK NEQAS IIA, Sheffield	
14.50-15.10	<b>Transforming Competency Assessment with Digital EQA Solutions</b> Carol Stanley, UK NEQAS IIA, Sheffield	
15.10-15.30	<b>Advancing Education Through iEQA: A Web-Based Interpretative Platform</b> Mr Matthew Fletcher, UK NEQAS IIA, Sheffield	
15.30-16.00	Discussion, Q&A	
16.00-16.15	Closing comments and depart	

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Active participation & debate will be encouraged