



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

PRESS RELEASE

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Making Sure New Medical Laboratory Tests are Safe

Blood tests performed in Medical Laboratories are important for investigating patients' symptoms and in formulating and monitoring their treatment – glucose testing in Diabetes and Cholesterol testing are examples.

Tests and equipment are being developed all the time and patients expect that

- New tests are safe and do what they claim.
- New tests come in to use quickly so that the benefits can be achieved.
- Tests work properly with new analytical equipment.

Dr. Robert Hill – the director of Scientific Affairs for the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB) – announced today the publication of new guidance that will help laboratory personnel and the suppliers of reagents and instruments to bring new tests and equipment into use quickly and safely, saying “*Using new technology safely to benefit patients is at the core of what we do in laboratory medicine*”

The guidance has been published on the ACB website at

<http://www.acb.org.uk/An%20Ver/Measurement1.asp>.

The guidance has been drawn up by the Association for Clinical Biochemistry, The Institute of Biomedical Science, the Nordic Association for Clinical Chemistry and representatives of the diagnostics industry. It is practical but scientifically rigorous and defines minimum requirements. It was written with the demands of the modern laboratory in mind and in the full knowledge of staffing resources and time constraints that affect what it is possible to do.

For further information contact Dr. Robert Hill, Tel: 01623 672 381, Robert.Hill@sfh-tr.nhs.uk, Consultant Biochemist, King's Mill hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Clinical Biochemistry is the clinical science of examining blood and other fluids to diagnose and monitor disease and inform therapy.

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB), founded in 1953, is a professional body dedicated to the practice and promotion of clinical science and laboratory medicine and has medical and non-medical members in all major UK healthcare laboratories, many university departments and several commercial companies. It has a relationship with the clinical diagnostics industry through links with its Corporate Members. The Association liaises with, and is consulted by, many national and international organisations on issues relating to Clinical Biochemistry. It was instrumental in establishing accreditation for clinical scientists in all disciplines and administers accreditation in all disciplines through the Association of Clinical Scientists. It also plays a significant role in the training of Clinical Scientists in the Biochemistry discipline and its training framework is used by other disciplines.

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