



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure



The Association for
Clinical Biochemistry &
Laboratory Medicine

Better Science, Better Testing, Better Care

Press Release 3 June 2015

Focus on supermarket health checks, health conditions and disease at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB)

Having your blood taken in a supermarket for a health check, is just one of the topics up for debate at the ACB Annual National Scientific Meeting being held in Cardiff from 9-11 June 2015.

Professor Jonathan Kay, Chair of the debate on Wednesday 10 June, which will focus on the pros and cons of supermarket based Point of Care Testing (PoCT), said:

“Tests for common health conditions such as diabetes, monitoring your cholesterol, or even having your blood taken to be sent away to the pathology lab whilst you do your weekly shop, may sound simple and convenient but there are some unanswered questions about how it could work in practice.

“Will the results from the tests be accurate and will the person undertaking the tests know how to make a proper diagnosis? Will taking tests in a supermarket lead to unnecessary testing just because it is easy to do? Could it even lead to the wrong treatment?”

Hundreds of clinical scientists working in laboratories in the NHS, with responsibility for diagnosing, aiding treatment and monitoring diseases, will be taking part in the three-day conference in the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The conference, FOCUS 2015, will be launched by the Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services, Professor Mark Drakeford AM on Tuesday 9 June.

Dr David Cassidy, consultant chemical pathologist in Merthyr Tydfil, Treasurer of The Royal College of Pathologists and chair of the ACB's Wales organising committee said:

“The aim of FOCUS 2015 is to highlight the importance of high quality laboratory services in helping to deliver better healthcare for patients. It will also showcase the cutting edge role that laboratory medicine plays in the research of health conditions and disease.

“It is more than 30 years since the ACB held a national meeting in Wales, so it is fitting that our annual scientific meeting is being held in such a prestigious and iconic venue.”

Other programme highlights include:

- The successes and challenges of the national screening programme for bowel cancer .
- The importance of team work when undertaking health checks for new-born babies.
- Examining health, ethnicity and diabetes in the UK.
- Enhancing the value of laboratory test results by POCT (Point Of Care Testing).

Ends



For further information/photos please contact The Royal College of Pathologists' Press and Communications Department on 020 7451 6752. Mobile: 0757 834 9018 or email: samantha.jayaram@rcpath.org. [@RCPath](#)

Notes for editors

- The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) was founded in 1953. It is a professional body dedicated to the practice and promotion of clinical science. The Association has medical and non-medical members in all major UK healthcare laboratories, in many university departments and in several commercial companies involved in healthcare. The links with its corporate members lead to a fruitful relationship with the clinical diagnostics industry. <http://www.acb.org.uk/>
- Professor Jonathan Kay works in the Farr Institute for Health Informatics Research, London, the NIHR Oxford Diagnostic Evidence Cooperative and the Health Informatics Unit of the Royal College of Physicians. <http://www.farrinstitute.org/>. Professor Kay is a Fellow of The Royal College of Pathologists and the Association for Clinical Biochemistry.
- Professor Kay is also a Board Member with responsibility for patient liaison of [Lab Tests Online UK](#), a patient-facing website about laboratory tests and investigations.
- The Royal College of Pathologists is a professional membership organisation committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the practice of pathology. As well as medically qualified members, the College has scientists amongst its membership and represents 19 pathology specialties. It has over 10,000 members who are senior staff in hospital laboratories, universities and industry, worldwide. www.rcpath.org and www.ilovepathology.org
- The College is a registered charity and is not a Trade Union. It does not negotiate the terms of employment of its members.