

## EMQN Statement

The European Molecular Genetics Quality Network (EMQN) is currently undergoing an organisational restructure; we are writing to you to inform you of these changes.

### Background

EMQN is a scientific organisation which helps laboratories provide accurate and reliable test results by promoting professional quality in diagnostic genomic testing and appropriate analytical and interpretative performance.

We started our life in 1998 with initial grant funding from the European Commission and went on to develop into the successful organisation that we are today, as a hosted service within a large UK public sector hospital (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust).

We have seen tremendous growth since our humble start in 1998 and now have members in 79 countries; our services are used by approximately 1600 laboratories around the globe. We are very proud of our achievements and would like to take this opportunity to share our exciting development with you.

As a community driven organisation, we are overseen by a Board, which has representation of senior scientists from across the globe from the fields of genetics and pathology. As EMQN evolves we are committed to retaining governance structures which represent our community.

Our work has always been supported by our members and collaborators and we value the partnership and working relationship that we share with you. We envision that this will continue alongside our restructure and you will be part of this exciting development and see the benefits that we can offer both to patients and to you.

### What is changing

The restructure of our organisation means that we are now operating independently from Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, as a new legal entity called EMQN CIC.

This means that EMQN now operates as a Community Interest Company (CIC). This is a legal model that obliges us to spend at least half of the profits on community benefit. This will enable us to continue to reinvest our profits into research and development, best practice, and training and education in

genomics for the benefit of patients. The remainder can be spent on operational costs. There are no shareholders, so nobody personally profits out of EMQN doing well.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to have been able to develop our organisation whilst being hosted by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and we will continue to work closely with all our partner organisations to ensure a smooth transition.

We will keep in touch regularly with any relevant updates and please see our FAQ section. For any additional enquiries please contact:

Michelle Plaiter at [communication@plaiter.org](mailto:communication@plaiter.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why has this change happened?**

With the growth of EMQN, it was no longer viable or practicable to continue to be hosted within another organisation. This change allows EMQN to expand in its offering in regard to research and development, best practice, and training and education in genomics, all of which will be of benefit to our patients.
- **Are you now a private company with shareholders?**

No, our organisation is now a Community Interest Company. This means that any surplus that we have, we are able to reinvest into our 'community' which is clinical genomics.
- **What happens to any surplus / profits that you make?**

As we have always done, we will re-invest any surplus in improving existing schemes and expanding the range of schemes offered. We also have plans to develop research and training opportunities along with supporting EQA schemes for rarer diseases. We will be more able to take this forward due to our change in legal status.
- **When do these changes come into effect?**

We registered as a Community Interest Company in June 2019 and plan to make the full company transition by the end of 2019.
- **What does this change mean for me / my organisation?**

Business will continue as normal. Our EQA activities and associated programmes of work will continue exactly as before, our staff are the same and we are still known as EMQN. You may see some minor changes in regard to invoicing, which we will contact you about in advance.
- **Will the accreditation status of EMQN EQA schemes be affected?**

EMQN CIC is working with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ensure that our schemes continue to be accredited to ISO17043.
- **Has the organisation structure changed?**

There have been some changes along with some continuity. Our management board has kindly agreed to continue working with us as our scientific and strategic advisory board (SSAB). This will enable us to continue with the support of our scientific experts to ensure quality of

services. Our directors include Dr Simon Patton, who will continue in his lead role at EMQN. A number of members from our SSAB will serve as Directors of EMQN CIC.

- ***Do we need to do anything?***

As one of our network members, collaborators and/or suppliers, you should see little changes to the service that we offer. Any changes that will affect your organisation will be communicated to you directly.

- ***Who to contact with further questions or queries?***

Please feel free to ask any questions that you may have to your current contact at EMQN or to email [communication@plaiter.org](mailto:communication@plaiter.org).