



ECMM Excellence Centers Quality Audit

**Mycology Reference Centre Manchester (MRCM),
Education and Research Centre in partnership with
The National Aspergillosis Centre (NAC), University
Hospital of South Manchester (Wythenshawe Hospital)**

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- **Inspection dates: November 28-29, 2016**
- **Inspectors: Katrien Lagrou and Andreas H. Groll**
- **The following persons were interviewed during the audit**

- Prof Malcolm Richardson
- Prof David Denning
- Dr Caroline Moore: Principal Clinical Scientist in Mycology/Deputy Director of the Mycology Reference Centre
- Dr Riina Richardson: Consultant Clinical Mycologist and Senior Clinical Lecturer in Infectious Diseases
- Dr Eavan Muldoon: Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Senior Clinical Lecturer in Infectious Diseases
- Dr Antihuman Chaturvedi: Consultant Histopathologist
- Dr Richard Sawyer: Consultant Radiologist
- Dr Graham Atherton: website architect: National Aspergillosis Centre and Fungal Infection Trust. Managing Editor: The Aspergillus Website
- Dr Jenny Bartholomew: Editor: LIFE Worldwide learning platform, and GAFFI website architect
- Mrs Chris Harris: National Aspergillosis Centre Manager
- Dr Charlotte Sriruttan: Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Cape Town, South Africa
- Dr Mairi Cullen: Consultant in Clinical Microbiology and Head of the Department of Clinical Microbiology

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- Assessment of laboratory practices
 - Procedures clearly described in SOPs and based on the British Standards for standard microbiology investigations
 - quality guaranteed through adequate internal and external quality controls
 - accreditation according to ISO 15189
 - Good interaction between the Mycology Reference Centre Manchester (MRCM) and the Microbiology Department from the Wythenshawe Hospital

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- State of the art methodology
 - optical brighteners and specialized stains are used for microscopy of samples from patients with suspicion of invasive fungal infection
 - evaluation of modified culture procedures
 - identification of fungi through microscopy and sequencing if needed
 - susceptibility testing against a broad range of antifungals according to reference techniques, pyrosequencing directly on primary samples is under evaluation
 - biomarker testing (Cryptococcus antigen, galactomannan, β -D-glucan, PCR) for improved diagnosis of fungal infections
 - incorporation of biomarker results in critical care algorithms (e.g. for invasive candidiasis)
 - therapeutic drug monitoring for flucytosine and triazole drugs

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- Short turn around times
- Interaction with key users of the reference lab to optimize service
- Relevance of lab results is discussed in a multidisciplinary team
- Highly skilled and motivated personnel

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- Assessment of the clinical programme
 - diagnostic, therapeutic and research infrastructure
 - experienced and active consultation service
 - activities in education and academic publishing
 - collaboration and networking within ECMM
 - active support of clinical and epidemiological studies

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- Clinical infrastructure
 - The clinical program fills a critical gap in focusing on pts. chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, BPA and fungal asthma
 - there is an excellent network with the clinical and supportive subspecialties relevant for this area, supported by a study office, research nurses and administrative staff
 - there also is an active internal and external consultation service, a specialized clinic for patients with recurrent mucocutaneous candidiasis and a stewardship program for invasive candidiasis
 - collaborative research studies within the ECMM network are in development

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- Research, education and advocacy
 - The MRCM and the NAC fulfill a leading role in research and education on an international level:
 - offer the only taught Masters programme in Medical Mycology in the world and a PhD program with currently 8 students
 - developed an electronic learning platform for Medical Mycology, published 79 papers, book chapters, and reviews in the past 3 yrs
 - the NAC administers the Aspergillosis Website and the LIFE world-wide learning platform and has raised an international initiative to improve outcomes for patients with fungal infections (GAFFI)

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- Summary
 - ... based on our onsite audit of the laboratory and clinical facilities, the extensive personal interaction with the Department Head and staff members, and demonstrated excellence in laboratory and clinical mycology, we feel confident to recommend consideration of the Mycology Reference Centre Manchester (MRCM) in partnership with the National Aspergillosis Centre (NAC) for designation as ECMM Excellence Center for patients with IFDs