

Quality assurance in Pathology

Chris Womack and Stephen Hewitt

Current Priorities and Problems

- Tissues are valuable and contents labile
- Collection, Processing, Storage neglected
- Bad handling and dogma compromise comparison & consensus development
- TMA construction and utility depends on source management – optimise FFPE
- IHC provides spatial information and remains a (*'the'*) biomarker platform
- Novel approaches require culture change!

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The solutions?

- Agreed QA and QC procedures a priority (e.g. IHC panel, processing schedule)
- Optimise what exists through research and consensus
- Funding for logistics analysis required (lots!)
- Staff training and career structure required (inference!)
- Should accepted clinical practice be challenged, to ensure QA/QC for (predictive/theranostic) biomarkers?
- Mechanism to define industry/academic/clinical standard