

**Statement from
the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine
regarding the Scally report on cervical screening**

The Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (The Academy) welcomes Dr Gabriel Scally's recent report on the inquiry into the CervicalCheck screening programme. The Academy is the professional body for Medical Scientists in Ireland. Medical Scientists are professional staff in clinical diagnostic laboratories in Ireland, having professionally accredited qualifications and competency training. We wish to inform service users of the commitment of Academy members to patient safety and quality management systems (ISO 15189.) These principles are central to the delivery of screening and diagnostic tests provided by our members in clinical pathology laboratories.

The Academy fully supports the introduction of the primary HPV test and is available to work with the National Screening Service to advise on future pathological service provision for this and other cancer screening programmes. The system chosen for HPV testing, while striving to achieve optimal cost effectiveness must be selected based on the quality of the results obtained i.e. sensitivity and specificity of detection and not cost. To ensure public protection and accountability the Academy recommends that the scientists providing this service and any clinical screening and diagnostic service must be state registered, as is the case for all medical practitioners.

The Academy will work with the Department of Health, the Minister, the HSE, CervicalCheck and all other agencies to achieve the best outcomes for women having cervical screening and clinical diagnostic testing in Ireland.

The Academy is fully committed to public education in all aspects of medical laboratory science.

Finally the Academy extends their sympathy to all women and their families affected in any way by the failures identified in the Scally Report.

22 October 2018