

Purpose and the Pandemic



Sam Barrell

Chief Operating Officer

The Francis Crick Institute

26/05/2021

First major challenge

- Should the Crick try and set-up COVID PCR testing to help our local NHS?
- Should we wait for permission, finance and resource?
- Did we have the expertise?

Some of the COVID pipeline testing team



“Testing is an essential part of the national effort to tackle the spread of COVID-19. We wanted to use our facilities and expertise to help support NHS staff on the front line who are battling this virus.

Institutes like ours are coming together with a Dunkirk spirit - small boats that collectively can have a huge impact on the national endeavour.”

Sir Paul Nurse

Radio 4

April 2020

Second major challenge

- Symptomatic versus non-symptomatic COVID testing.
- Do we speak out?
- How do we influence?

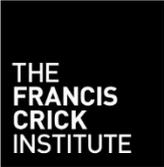
Third major challenge

- Do we make staff testing mandatory?
- What do we do with positive test results?
- What about GDPR?
- What to do if staff didn't comply?

Outcomes of the first challenge

- >500,000 COVID PCR tests.
- 10 hospitals and 150 care homes.
- Support and advice on PCR testing to over 40 other sites both UK and internationally.
- Cited by Department of Health & Social Care as national exemplar site (diagnostic testing guidelines).
- Drive-through facility supporting pre-op patients.

Outcomes of first challenge



- *“Thank you to you and your colleagues for the world-class support you are offering. It really has made a major difference, not only for UCLH but so many others in the health and care sector”*

Prof. Marcel Levi

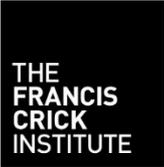
Chief Executive

UCLH

Outcomes of the second challenge

- Healthcare workers are now routinely asymptotically tested.
- Social care workers are now routinely asymptotically tested.
- Patients are now routinely asymptotically tested.

Outcomes of the third challenge



- COVID secure workplace. In-house surveillance programme now operational for over a year.

“I also saw another side of the Crick during the pandemic, when it has been outstanding at taking care of its people. The compassion and care shown by others has emboldened me to be the same towards my new community here in NYC.”

Former PhD student moving to pharma position in New York.

- Allowed us to keep workplace safe and remain scientifically productive.
- This led to a COVID-19 research programme bringing together a team of c100 scientists across 12 labs sharing data and techniques worldwide.

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