

IEQAS
Irish EQA Scheme

*Laboratory
Medicine*

Participants' Conference 2010

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Ned Barrett

Chairman, IEQAS Steering Committee

External Quality Assessment Scheme

"The primary intention of the activities of an EQA Programme in laboratory medicine shall be to support quality improvements of the services provided by participating laboratories for the benefits of the patients."

Source: IFCC Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of EQAP organizers in medical laboratories, 2002

The Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme for Laboratory Medicine (IEQAS) was launched in May 1981.

IEQAS is a non-trading, non-profit professional association within the Irish health service.

It monitors the quality of results reported in Irish Laboratory Medicine and offers professional advice and guidance as necessary.

From the beginning, virtually all clinical laboratories in the state have participated in the scheme.

IEQAS is educational rather than regulatory in nature and provides a means of external audit that operates continuously thus helping laboratories to achieve their aim of continuous quality improvement.

Of itself, passive participation in External Quality Assessment is not enough to drive quality improvement.

IEQAS reports must be understood and interpreted correctly so as to prompt corrective actions and guide quality improvement.

The Annual Participants' Conference provides a valuable opportunity for all of us to learn from the experiences of our colleagues and the wisdom of our invited guest speakers.

The support of all the professional bodies in Irish Laboratory Medicine has been crucial to the success of the scheme.

The IEQAS Steering Committee coordinates the work of various Haematology, Clinical Chemistry and Transfusion Review Groups and Specialist Sub-Committees.

The demand for IEQAS services has grown considerably in recent years and this has presented new challenges for the Scheme and its staff at a difficult time for the publicly-funded health services.

**Manufacturer -
(Instrumentation, reagents)**

**National External Quality
Assessment Scheme (IEQAS)**

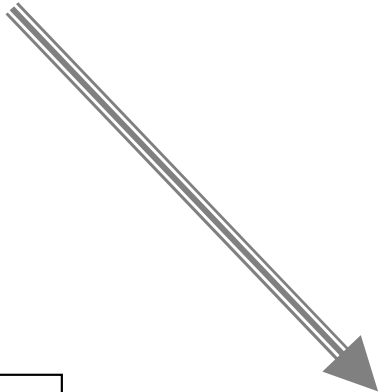
*Management of
Internal Quality Control*

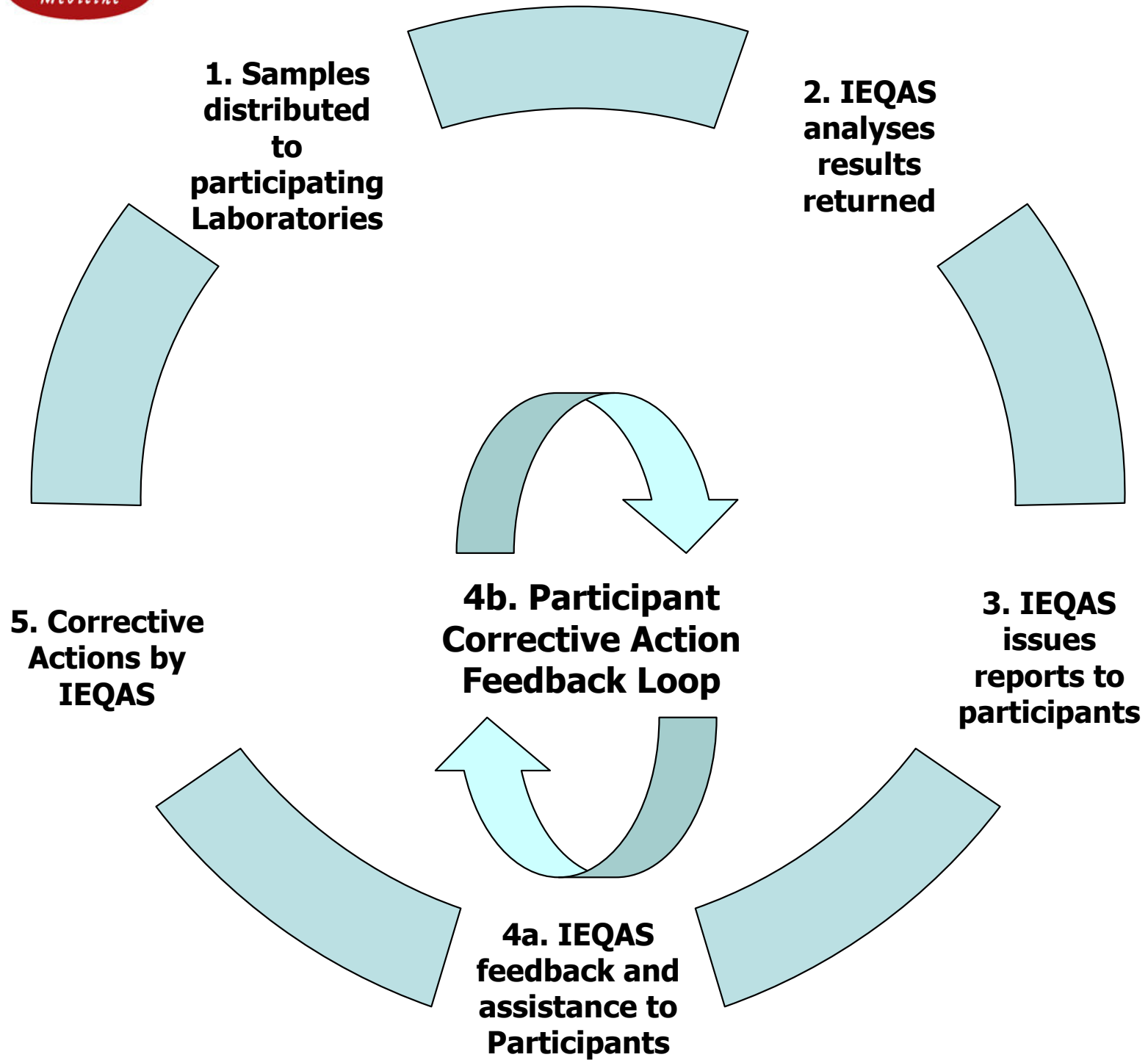
Analyser in the Laboratory

*External Quality
Assessment*

Hospital Care Teams; Primary Care Practices

The Patients





**Manufacturer -
(Instrumentation, reagents)**

**National External Quality
Assessment Scheme (IEQAS)**



**Analysers in the
Laboratory**

**Analysers at the
point-of-care**



Hospital Care Teams; Primary Care Practices

The Patients

CALIBRATION

MATERIAL

VALUE ASSIGNMENT

PROCEDURE

IMPLEMENTATION

Definition of SI unit by CGPM

Primary reference measurement procedure

Primary calibrator

IFCC

Secondary calibrator

Secondary reference measurement procedure

Accredited Reference Laboratory or Manufacturer's laboratory

Manufacturer's working calibrator

Manufacturer's selected measurement procedure

Manufacturer's laboratory

Manufacturer's product calibrator

Manufacturer's standing measurement procedure

Routine sample

End-user's routine measurement procedure

End-user

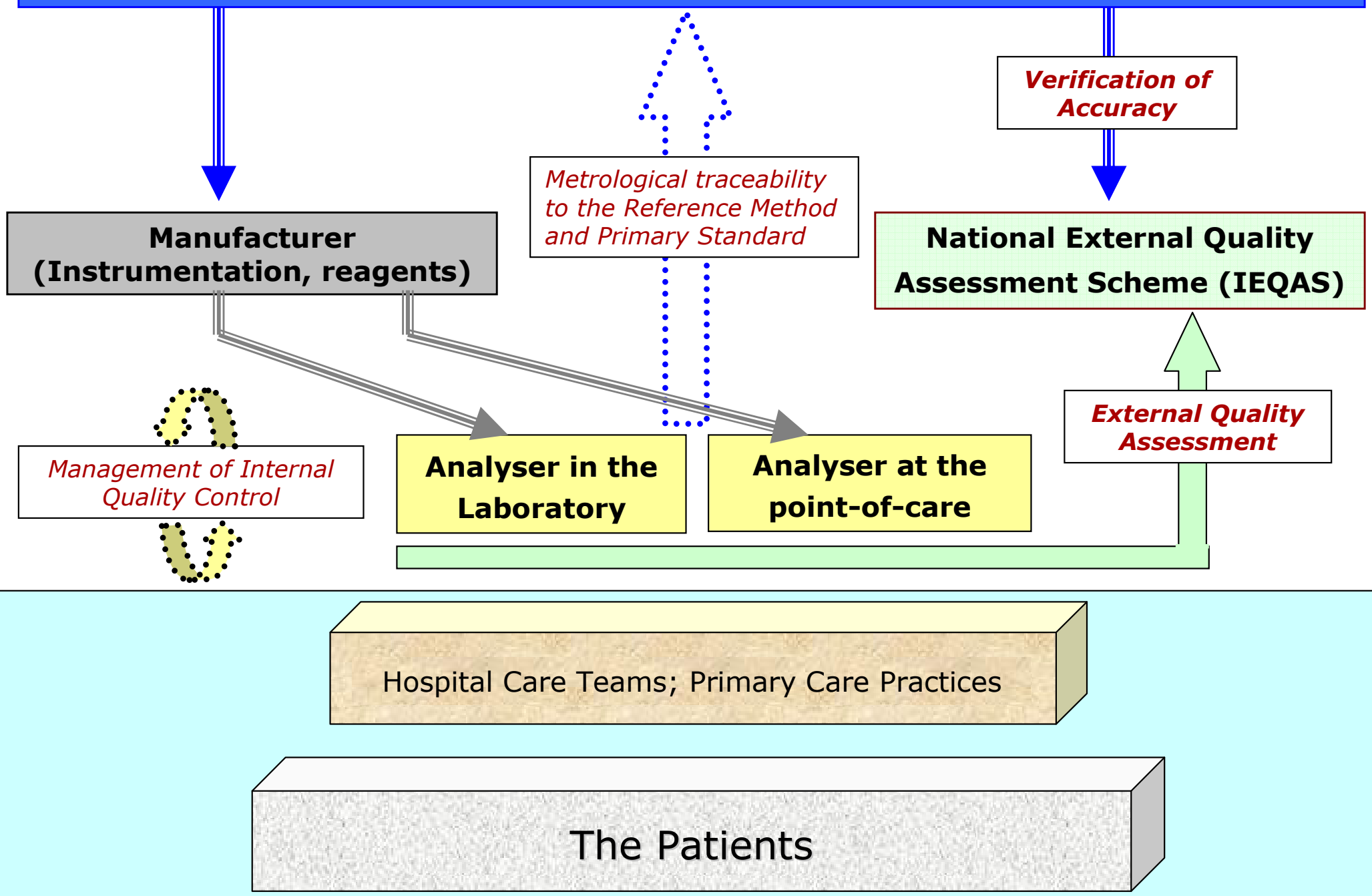
RESULT

METROLOGICAL TRACEABILITY

Uncertainty of measurement



International Reference Measurement System



**Manufacturer
(Instrumentation, reagents)**

*Metrological traceability
to the Reference Method
and Primary Standard*

**Verification of
Accuracy**

**National External Quality
Assessment Scheme (IEQAS)**

*Management of Internal
Quality Control*

**Analyser in the
Laboratory**

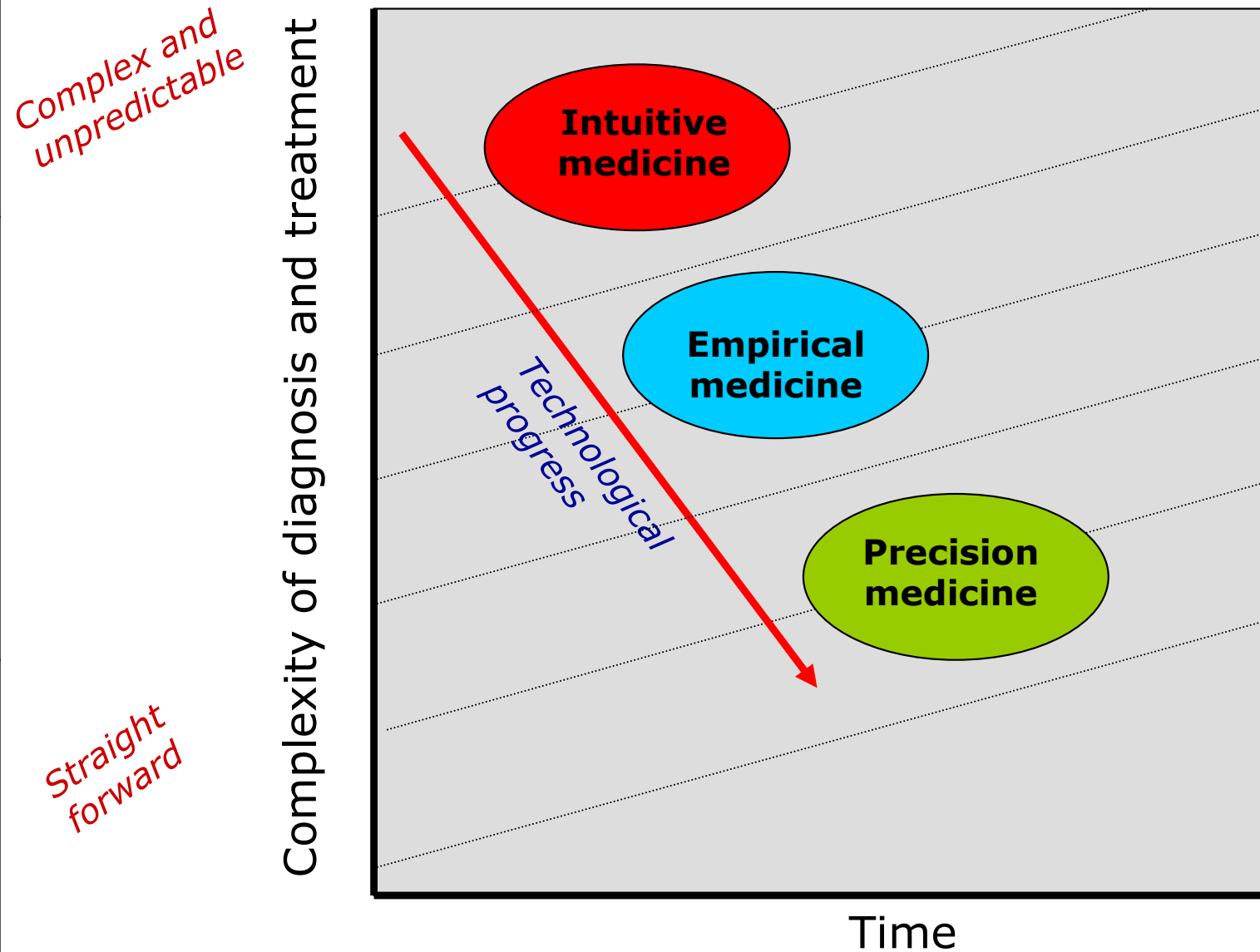
**Analyser at the
point-of-care**

**External Quality
Assessment**

Hospital Care Teams; Primary Care Practices

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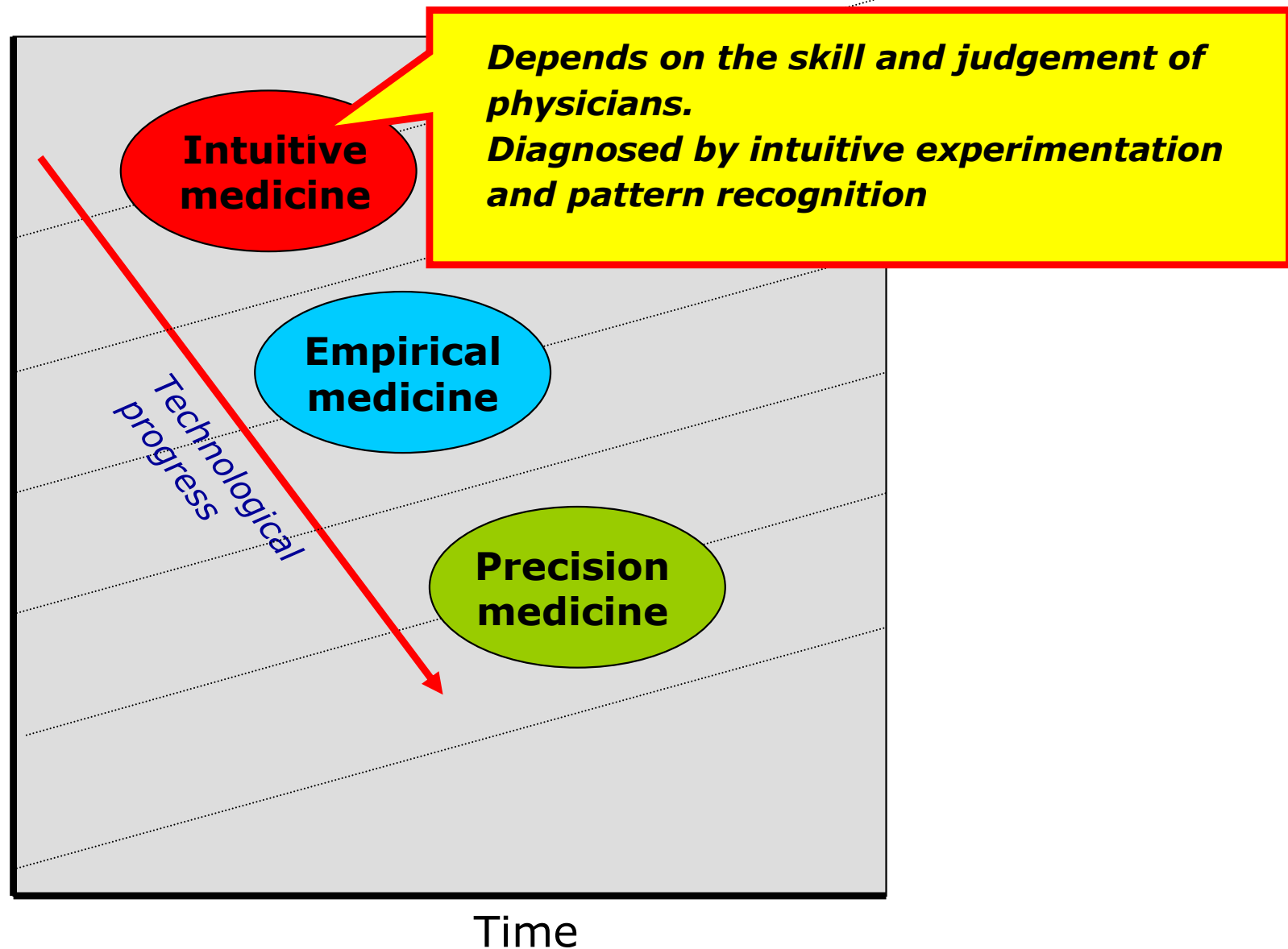
Changing nature of medical practice



Changing nature of medical practice

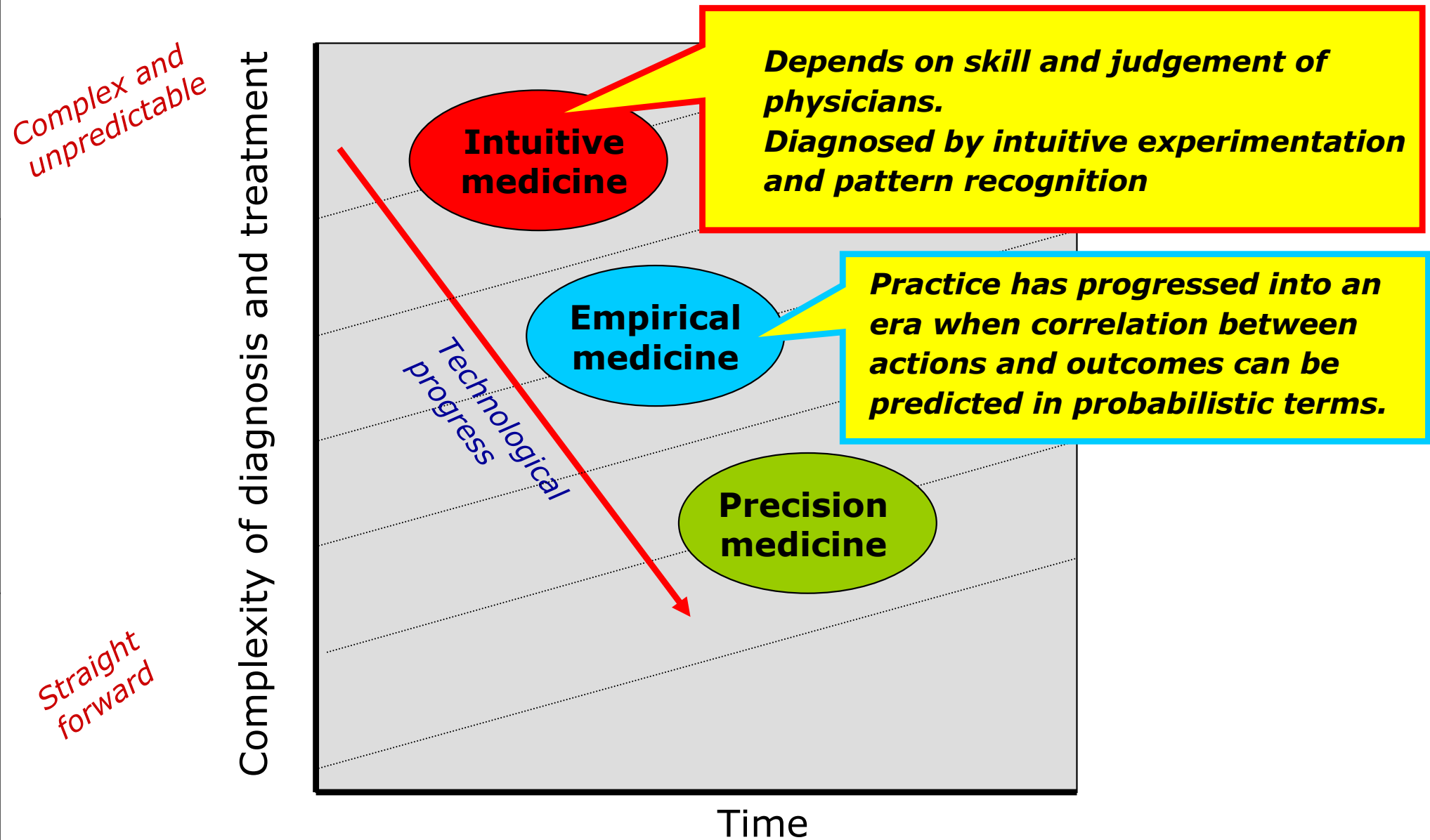
Complex and unpredictable

Complexity of diagnosis and treatment

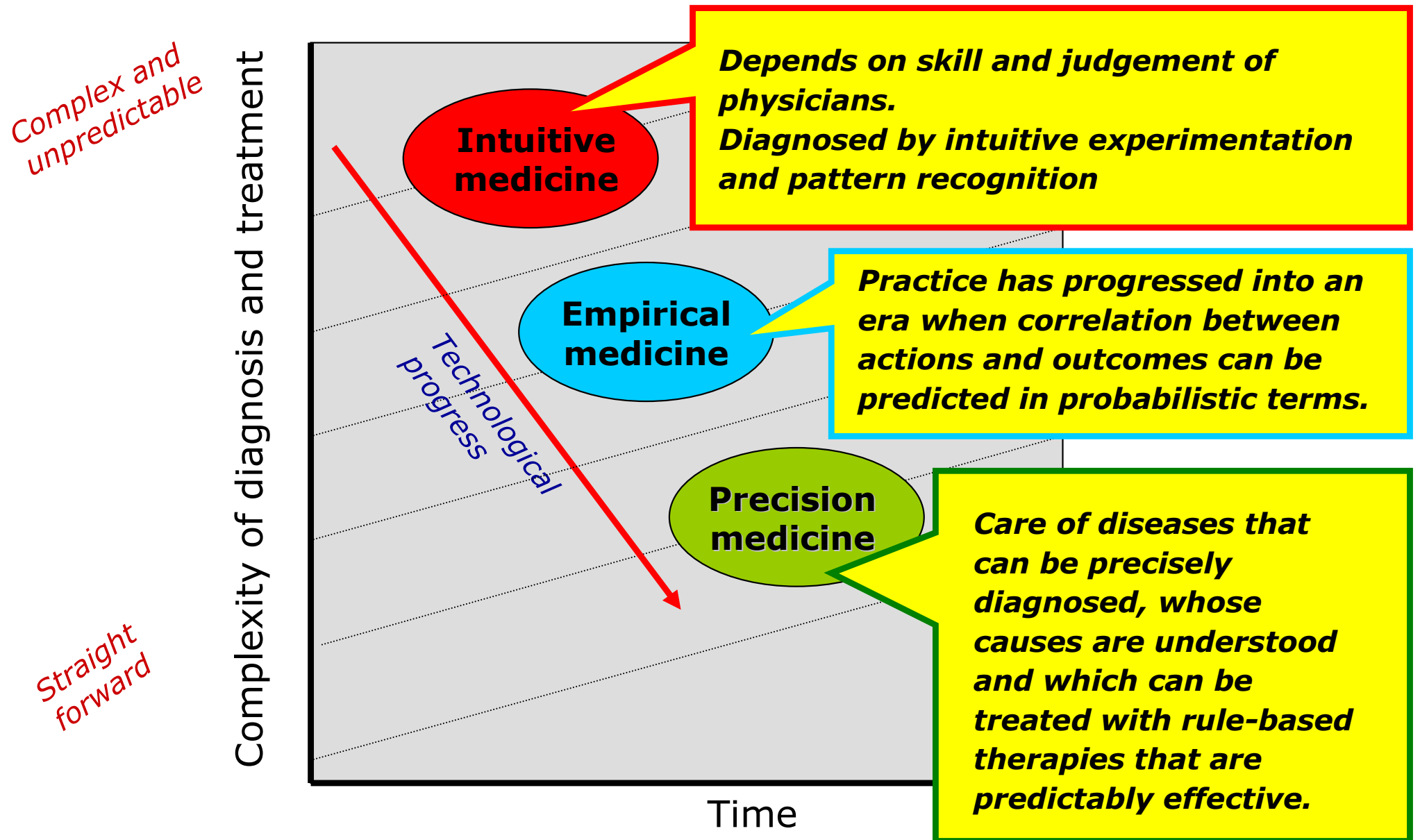


Straight forward

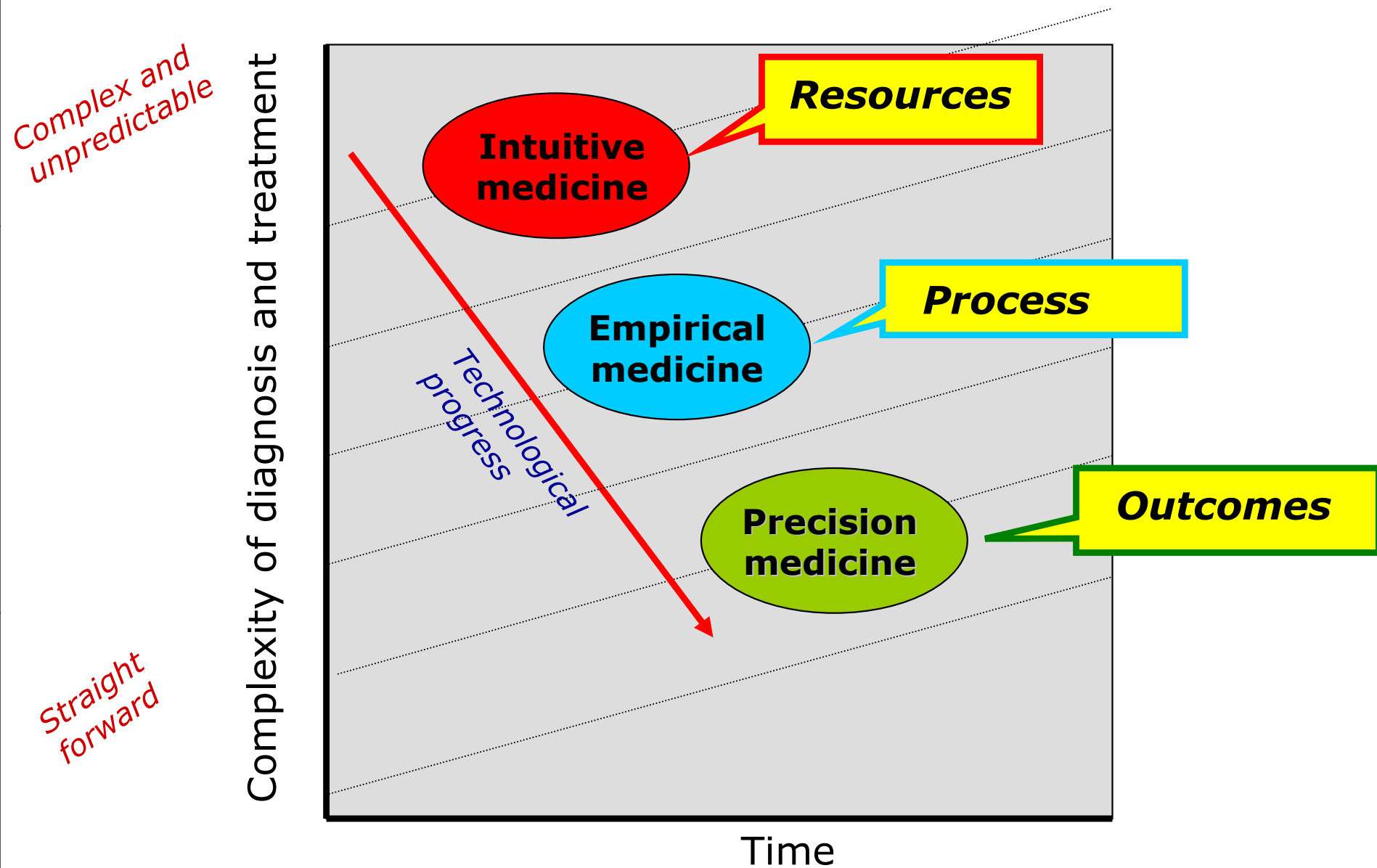
Changing nature of medical practice

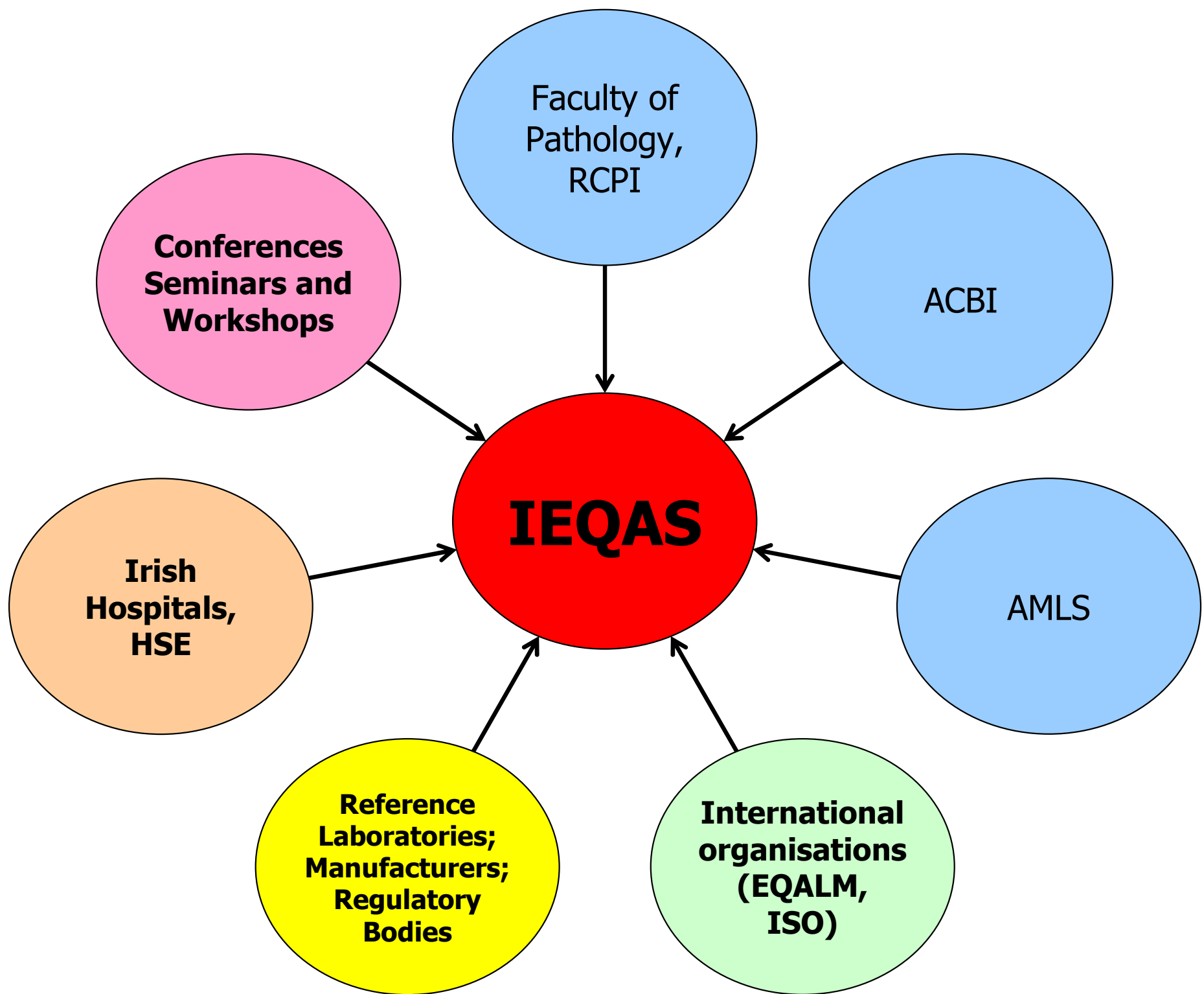


Changing nature of medical practice



Changing nature of medical practice





09:45 Chairman's Address

Dr. Ned Barrett,
Chairman, IEQAS Steering Committee

09:55 Opening Address

Dr. Joe Devlin,
Director, Quality, Safety and Risk, Health Service Executive

10:15 IEQAS Annual Review

Ms. Patricia Howley,
IEQAS Operations Manager