

**ABSTRACT****WHO'S QUALITY OF LIFE?**

Giving people a say in how they report their own quality of life has been a centrepiece of programme of health research that has been conducted for over a 10 year period through an international research collaboration based at the World Health Organisation, Geneva. This talk will trace the steps taken by the WHOQOL Group to tap into ideas and vocabulary used by people living in diverse countries world-wide that has formed the foundation stones of this work to develop a new measure. Using a 'grass roots' approach has enabled this group to improve the assessment of quality of life by making better comparisons of people's quality of life of life in many different cultures. The availability of this scale has proved useful in setting up multinational clinical trials, health surveys, and for many other clinical and research purposes, and some of these will be discussed.