

SCOTTISH CELLULAR PATHOLOGY MANAGEMENT GROUP

Notes from meeting held on 11th May 2009

Riverhouse Hotel, Stirling

Name	Initial	Representing	Attendance
Derek Bishop	DB	SPAN	Apologies
Jim Ramsay	JR	Tayside	Attended
Andrew Soden	AS	Highland	Absent
Lynne Doverty	LD	Grampian	Attended
David Topping	DT	Fife	Attended
Roy Robertson	RR	Forth Valley	Attended
David Elliot	DE	Lothian	Deputy
Allan Wilson	AW	Lanarkshire (Monklands)	Attended
Tom Downie	TD	North Glasgow	Attended
Ian Sutherland	IS	Clyde (RAH)	Absent
Alex Brown	AB	Ayrshire & Arran	Attended
David Murray	DM	Lanarkshire (Wishaw)	Apologies
Mike Bromley	MB	Dumfries & Galloway	Attended
Jackie Anderson	JA	Clyde (Inverclyde)	Apologies
Steve Harrower	SH	South Glasgow	Attended
Jim Lynch	JL	South Glasgow	Attended
John McCorriston	JM	North Glasgow	Absent
Jim Ito	JI	Glasgow, Sick Children's	Absent
Helen Glass	HG	Glasgow, Sick Children's	Attended

The meeting opened with a presentation from Cellpath representatives on the CellNass storage options and recent developments within the company. An abridged version of the presentation will be circulated to the group.

David Brown, NSD Commodity Manager for laboratories and Surgical portfolio then gave a presentation on procurement processes. David kindly agreed to forward his presentation to the group. Some brief notes from his presentation are given below:

- The current Laboratory sundries (Lab002) and ICC (Lab003) frameworks may not be renewed when the contract ends in 2014.
- Managed service contracts are an attractive option as they permit VAT to be reclaimed and they share the risk with the supplier.
- MSC for equipment or reagent rental agreements may still incur capital charges
- The EU threshold for a full EU tender process is £90,319
- This figure includes the total value of the contract, e.g. a three year contract worth £30K+ per year requires a EU tender.
- Rolling one year contracts are not exempt.

1. Apologies

Jackie Anderson, Derek Bishop, David Murray, Dave Elliott (Fiona McQueen deputising).

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Some of the initials against individual names are incorrect.

Dave Topping did attend the last meeting

With these amendments the minutes were proposed by AB and seconded by RR.

3. Matters arising

Competency assessment meeting

This meeting has not been arranged, partly because the objectives were unclear. After some discussion it was agreed that local progress in assessing competency may have removed the main driver for this meeting. It was agreed to re-visit the need for this meeting at the November meeting.

Scottish training school for specimen dissection

AB indicated that there had been little progress and suggested that this item should be removed from future agendas. AB will update the group when there is progress to report.

Agenda for Change

The banding grid had been previously circulated and will be updated and re-circulated to the group. Local updates are as follows:

- Forth Valley: all band 8a's and above are undergoing a management driven review process
- Ayrshire and Arran: reviews have looked at all factors within the job description not just the areas requested by the reviewee. This has resulted in a drop in scores in some job descriptions.
- Dumfries and Galloway: all 8a's have requested a review.
- Lanarkshire: no results yet from the review process for the Chief BMS's and the Advanced Practitioner.

Retention of blocks and slides

The risk of retaining material when it was not required by the current guidelines was discussed. Many labs are now scanning request forms rather than retaining hard copies. Many labs have completed the template giving storage procedures for slides blocks and reports, the remaining labs were encouraged to respond. The results so far indicate a significant variation in retention policies.

4. Nominations for Secretary

There were no nominations received. AW agreed to serve another term as Secretary. Proposed by JR, seconded by RR

5. Open discussion

Integrated degree students

This initiative has many positive aspects but has had a significant impact on the departments involved in training students. Some students have decided to move to seek employment in other areas but in some regions the students have represented fertile recruitment territory and many have been employed within the labs.

Sourcing control material

Lanarkshire is experiencing difficulties in sourcing control material but most other labs have adequate supplies of controls except for difficult to source material such as TB or pneumocystis. The North Glasgow request form has a tick box for consent to use residual material. Jane Hair in the tissue bank may be able to supply control material.

Imager feasibility study

The study is now entering a third phase using a new review scope which is more user friendly and does not enforce a system directed full review for all abnormalities. The first phase is complete and discussions are ongoing as to how to report the results. The second phase has demonstrated an increase in productivity. A progress report will be delivered at the SACC meeting on the 22nd of May. If the report is positive about the imager, the Scottish Government have agreed to fund rollout. This could be next year.

Cytology review

The review group last met on 3rd April and agreed the short list of options that will be scored at the workshop in Perth on the 29th of May. The final report will recommend a model for the delivery of the cervical cytology laboratory service within Scotland. The proposed model will deliver the service irrespective of the outcome of the imager study.

eKSF

Lothian has yet to implement eKSF. Lanarkshire has set a date in September for completion of all PDP's on eKSF. Dumfries and Galloway are using eKSF to produce an annual report for CPA.

MSC

AW reported that he had participated in a two day curriculum development workshop in London last week and another two are scheduled over the next six weeks. The aim of the workshop was to produce learning outcomes for someone who was at masters level in the Scientist training programme. Further work will be carried out on the Practitioner training programme.

SCCRS

SCCRS is fairly stable. Business objects training was delivered last week but due to instability in the new version of Business Objects the training was less than satisfactory and the live system cannot be accessed at the moment. All "A" level change requests are now either implemented or are scheduled for future releases. The next release, version 1.9, is due out in September but there is little change for the labs in this release. The main development at the moment is the virology module which will record the HPV test status.

Associate Practitioners

Tayside have submitted a job description for indicative banding. Grampian are interviewing for Associate Practitioners tomorrow, the post has been banded as band 4 based on an HNC level. LD will circulate the job description. One of the functions of this post will be to embed and cut large blocks.

Extended working day

Grampian have several staff working a four day week, 8-6 with a 45 minute lunch. This is on a voluntary basis. South Glasgow are currently piloting a similar system, a compressed working week with similar hours. Seventeen staff are working these hours, the pilot run for three months and will then be formally assessed. Issues to be addressed include managing the rolling day off and ensuring suitable numbers of supervisory staff. Possible advantages include additional runs on ICC processors and putting late specimens on the tissue processor.

Date of next meeting

The date will be set by RR, AW and TD for later in the year but will take place before the next SPAN meeting to allow issues to be fed into the SPAN meeting.