

**Note of Meeting of Scottish Pathology Network (SPAN) Steering Group
05th October 2006
Wallace Park MDT Room
Pathology Department
Ninewells Hospital**

Name	Initial	Title	Representing	Attendance
Frank Carey	FAC	Network Clinical Lead/Clinical Leader	SPAN/ Tayside	Attended
Derek Bishop	DB	Network Manager	SPAN	Attended
Jim Ramsay	JR	Head Biomedical Scientist	Tayside	Apologies
David Topping	DT	Chief Biomedical Scientist	Tayside Alternate	Attended
Mark Ashton	MA	Clinical Leader/ Consultant Pathologist	Highland	Attended
Blair France	BF	Head Biomedical Scientist	Highland	Attended
Mary McKean	MMK	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Grampian	Attended
Charles Broadfoot	CB	Head Biomedical Scientist	Grampian	Attended
Brian Adamson	BA	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Fife	Apologies
Norma Dryden	ND	Head Biomedical Scientist	Fife	Attended
Bruce Michie	BM	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Forth Valley	Attended
Roy Robertson	RR	Head Biomedical Scientist	Forth Valley	Attended
Andrew Krajewski	ASK	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Lothian	Attended
David Elliot	DAE	Head Biomedical Scientist	Lothian	Attended
Jon Coldewey	JC	Clinical Leader (Monklands)/Consultant Pathologist	Lanarkshire	Attended
Allan Wilson	AW	Head Biomedical Scientist (Monklands)	Lanarkshire	Attended
Margaret Burgoyne	MB	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Glasgow	Attended
Tom Downie	TD	Head Biomedical Scientist	Glasgow	Attended
Freda Forbes	FF	Clinical Lead (RAH)/Consultant Pathologist	Clyde	Attended
Ian Sutherland	IS	Head Biomedical Scientist (RAH)	Clyde	Apologies
Bob Nairn	RN	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Ayrshire & Arran	Attended
Alex Brown	AB	Head Biomedical Scientist	Ayrshire & Arran	Attended
Awnie Lutfy	AL	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Dumfries & Galloway	Apologies
Mike Bromley	MB	Head Biomedical Scientist	Dumfries & Galloway	Apologies
Jeremy Thomas	JT	Consultant Pathologist	SMASAC Specialty Advisor	Apologies
Barry Gusterson	BG	Professor of Pathology	Academic Representative	Attended
Peter Johnston	PJ	Consultant Pathologist	Post Graduate Representative	Apologies

Note of Meeting

1. Apologies

Peter Johnston, Jim Ramsay, Brian Adamson, Ian Sutherland, Awnie Lutfy, Mike Bromley & Jeremy Thomas

2. Note of Previous Meeting

Accepted.

3. Report from each health board region

Forth Valley

Continuing with plans for new PFI funded hospital. Workload increasing.

Lothian

Continuing pressures. 2 consultant vacancies. St John's pathology due to be moved to RIE Feb/Mar 07

Clyde

Possibly converting EPA's to create new consultant post. Workload increasing but having difficulty recruiting to biomedical scientist and MLA posts.

Highland

Pressures. Increasing workload +7%
New endoscopy unit
New computer system to be implemented
Biomedical scientist/technical pressures

Ayrshire

Using increasing activity as basis for business case for additional staff
Difficulty in attaining training course for Anatomical Pathology Technicians
Continuing dialogue over crown office contract.

Lanarkshire.

Reconfig of service to a 2 site model of delivery from 3 sites.
Clinical Lead for Lanarkshire pathology confirmed as Jon Coldewey
Picture for Health outcomes confirm Monklands as a level 2 site

Glasgow

Continuing plans for movement to 1 site at SGH in 09/10

Grampian

Improving picture on consultant recruitment with new appointments.

Tayside

Full consultant staffing.
CPA visit due Nov 06

Fife

Continuing increase in workload.

Post Graduate

BG was welcomed to his 1st meeting and highlighted some of the academic challenges which are detailed under post graduate report

4. Annual Report and Workplan

The document was reviewed and agreed with the steering group with some minor amendments. The inclusion of an option which did not include recognition of clinical lead time was to be removed. This document would be the focus of work for the coming year and would be the basis for a presentation to the joint Regional Planning Groups on the 31 Oct 2006

5. Recent Strategic Documents

Links to the Carter Review of Pathology in England and Wales and the Calman review of Genetics in Scotland were discussed.
A number of points were raised and it was accepted that although the Scottish NHS was pursuing a divergent path that any outcomes from Carter would inform the process in Scotland

<p>The Calman review and in particular its impact to molecular pathology provided a focus of discussion. It was highlighted that SPAN had made representations about the make up of the groups considering this and awaited further communication.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Any other comments on the 2 documents were welcome from steering group members in writing if any of the group felt areas had not been covered.</p>	
<p>6. Human Tissue Bill</p>	<p>FAC/DB</p>
<p>Issues were raised about the very short timescale for introduction of the new post mortem authorization forms. Considerable dialogue had taken place between SEHD and SPAN representatives at the time of the launch. No hard copy forms were available on the 01 September launch date and the electronic copies required further revisions. Thanks to BN for bringing together the responses and clinical advice notes. SPAN would audit the effect the forms launch had on post mortem rates with a short questionnaire to initially cover the Sep – Nov period. SPAN would also clarify when the original 5 year hold period would end</p>	
<p>7. Benchmarking</p>	
<p>3 regions were taking part in Keele Benchmarking. A meeting was to be held with NHS representatives, SEHD and Keele to generate discussion around a Scottish cohort within Keele on 26th October. This was likely to develop on the basis of discipline specific working groups and the development of the Scottish cohort for 2007/08 submission. It was discussed that there is a lack of information on activity locally and it would be constructive for SPAN to circulate each regions with a baseline questionnaire on activity and staffing as a forerunner to Keele. Possibly using a variant of the previous ISD 2000 model</p>	<p>FAC/DB</p>
<p>Additionally there was discussion about the lack of information on biomedical scientist workload. It was agreed to ask the head Biomedical Scientist group to take this forward as a project.</p>	
<p>8. Pathalba Progress Report</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Phase 1 of Pathalba was on track to allow cameras and software to be delivered through Nov/Dec. Departments accepted the requirements to share images across the pathology community. There would also as part of the development require audit of the usage of the systems.</p>	
<p>Phase 2 the sharing of images requires further discussion with Pathalba Board (16 Nov 2006) and national IT. Any suggestions or comments for Phase 2 are invited.</p>	
<p>9. Scotland/Malawi</p>	<p>FAC/DB</p>
<p>SPAN had become involved in this project and has provided educational links with Malawi. FAC and others potentially going to Malawi 2007 to provide some lectures on the undergraduate medical course. (NHS Education Scotland/Malawi conference 13 Oct 2006.)</p>	
<p>10. National Procurement</p>	<p>FAC/DB</p>
<p>National Procurement through Graeme Cook developing potential future framework agreements on a national basis. The concentration is mainly on immunocytochemistry at the moment. The steering group agreed that this should be pursued for the potential benefit of all departments. There was discussion about managed contracts and the potential VAT status.</p>	
<p>11. Postgraduate Update</p>	<p>FAC/DB</p>
<p>PJ had sent apologies but submitted an email report covering the challenges of MMC</p>	

<p>and the developments of the biomedical scientist modernization board.</p> <p>12. Academic Update</p> <p>BG highlighted the difficulties in academic pathology in Scotland. Challenges within MMC of supporting trainee pathologists in an academic route. Poster presentations at Path. Soc. Showing decline in submissions from Scotland. BG and others had received £350k award. This could be used to allow trainees from Scotland to take blocks in the US and other research labs but this would impact to training and would need to be considered by post graduate deans.</p> <p>BG to forward details for dissemination.</p> <p>BG also undertook to contact academic heads re medical staffing/service contribution etc.</p> <p>13. AOCB</p> <p>Electron Microscopy</p> <p>It was noted that the NHS\in England were looking at this provision and possibly there maybe some scope for reviewing this in Scotland. It was decided as part of the baseline questionnaire (Discussed in item 7) information on statistics and viewpoints would be invited from Pathology in each Health Board Region.</p> <p>SCCRS</p> <p>Discussion surrounded the progress of the cytology system and progress through the pilot stages. It was accepted that the potential of the system to benefit the organization of cytology was very good. There were some challenges which needed to be addressed and the SPAN Chair on behalf of the steering group would to write to Jocelyn Imrie</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To seek clarity on the rollout timescales and to express the viewpoint that the launch in Dec 2006 might be too ambitious. 2. To ensure that all of the changes requested through the B testing and the pilot sites had been implemented 3. To seek reassurance about the levels of support from ATOS <p>Anatomical Pathology Technician Training</p> <p>The difficulty of accessing training and education for the certificated course for this group of staff was proving difficult. Information suggests that there is unlikely to be a course in Scotland available for anyone entering this training grade. It was also proving difficult to source any courses in England. It was agreed that SPAN would write to Workforce planning at SEHD to seek further information in how to take this forward.</p> <p>Date of next meeting 11 January 2007 Education and Conference Centre, Stirling Royal Infirmary, Livilands, Stirling. 10.30</p>	<p>BG</p> <p>BG</p> <p>FAC/DB</p>
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