

**Note of Meeting of Scottish Pathology Network (SPAN) Steering Group  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
Stirling Municipal Building**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Frank Carey	FAC	Network Clinical Lead	SPAN	Attended
Derek Bishop	DB	Network Manager	SPAN	Attended
Jim Ramsay	JR	Head Biomedical Scientist	Tayside	Attended
Lee Jordan	LJ	Clinical Leader/ Consultant Pathologist	Tayside	Attended
Mark Ashton	MA	Clinical Leader/ Consultant Pathologist	Highland	Attended
Mary McKean	MMK	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Grampian	Attended
Lynn Doherty	LD	Head Biomedical Scientist	Grampian	Attended
Brian Adamson	BA	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Fife	Attended
Norma Dryden	ND	Head Biomedical Scientist	Fife	Attended
Torquil McLeod	TM	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Forth Valley	Attended
Roy Robertson	RR	Head Biomedical Scientist	Forth Valley	Attended
Ken Grigor	KG	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	Attended
Joyce Lang	JL	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Ayrshire & Arran	Attended
Alex Brown	AB	Head Biomedical Scientist	Ayrshire & Arran	Attended
Awni 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	Attended
Barry Gusterson	BG	Professor of Pathology	Academic Representative	Apologies
Peter Johnston	PJ	Consultant Pathologist	Post Graduate Representative	Attended

## Note of Meeting

### 1. Apologies

BG, MB and AL

### 2. Note of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Note of Meeting Accepted.

Matters arising.

None which would not be covered under main agenda

### 3. Cytology - SCCRS

The utilization of SCCRS had continued to improve since the last meeting. Getting accurate statistics remained a challenge and this was being further developed through a group chaired by Dr Sheila Nicoll and testing was being carried out. The use of business objects would bring significant benefits when it was available

#### - Cytology Review

The review group had decided that a feasibility study may be required into the use of Imaging technology and a feasibility group had been set up which would meet for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in February. This would consist mostly of cytology professionals, partnership plus public health.

### 4. E Health

#### Pathalba the Future

SPAN recognized the work Dr Alistair Robertson had done both in E Health and Pathology in general over many years before his sad demise in December. Pathalba progress would be a considered at the next Pathalba Board meeting arranged for 26 February.

GCS progress for the pathology element had stalled and awaited further direction/funding from the centre.

### 5. Delivering for Health – Diagnostic Steering Group

SPAN had continued to pursue the requirement for a national strategy in relationship to molecular diagnostics.

### 6. Cancer Plan Development

The new cancer plan Better Cancer Care was in development and the consultation document due for publication before the end of March.

### 7. Post Mortem

It was perceived that the post mortem rate was continuing to decline and the details would be picked up on the statistical returns.

Discussion around the Crown Office contract took place :-

1. The seven year contract
2. 'view and grant' for fiscal post mortems. There were publications supporting the accuracy of this methodology.

IG/JI

In hospital post mortems trainee health care professionals and students were considered part of the medical team in a number of centres for the purposes of complying with the conditions around authorization of post mortems.

#### **8. Benchmarking**

There was discussion about the challenges in completing the Keele Benchmarking data this year.

A SPAN sub group (MA, TD, DE, AB, LJ & DB) had met in October to discuss the Keele template in the light of any differences required of a Scottish cohort. A formal response was sent back to Keele and Scottish Government agreeing to take part in this years exercise and suggesting some changes to the template for future years

Keele/SEHD had agreed to set up a one day meeting in Feb 2008 to take on board comments and report back on the outcomes from this year's exercise.

#### **9. SMASAC Update**

No further correspondence.

#### **10. Academic/Post Graduate Update**

There was discussion surrounding the role of trainee pathologists and signing out reports. The situation seemed to be variable across the country and depended on the individual consultant lead. Most Departments on completion of CCST happy to sign out some cases.

#### **9. AOCB**

#### **SPAN Day Conference**

SPAN conference 'Future Directions' on 15 May 2008 in Perth. Liz Porterfield, Colin Lauder, James Ironside, Barry Gusterson, Jocelyn Imrie, Sarah May, Scott Sanders and Richard Carr had been invited to speak

Date and Venue of next formal meeting subsequently confirmed as 08 October 2008