

**Note of Meeting of Scottish Pathology Network (SPAN) Steering Group  
08<sup>th</sup> October 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	Apologies
Lee Jordan	LJ	Clinical Leader/ Consultant Pathologist	Tayside	Attended
Mark Ashton	MA	Clinical Leader/ Consultant Pathologist	Highland	Apologies
Mary McKean	MMK	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Grampian	Attended
Lynn Doverty	LD	Head Biomedical Scientist	Grampian	Apologies
Brian Adamson	BA	Clinical Leader/Consultant Pathologist	Fife	Attended
David Topping	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	Apologies
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	Apologies

## Note of Meeting

### 1. Apologies

As page 1 noted

### 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 - Cytology Review

The review group had met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. Tribal Consulting appointed to produce an option appraisal. There had been 4 roadshows/focus groups in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth and Aberdeen with a good attendance. The key criteria highlighted by the focus groups had been ranked and weighted for scoring the potential options

The Imager feasibility study progressing well with the equipment procured and functioning in the 6 labs. Inverclyde went live 15 September, Aberdeen due to go live w/b 13 October. Outcomes to be reported back to review group June/July 2009.

SCCRS will be a key factor in facilitating the outcomes of the review.

### 4. E Health

#### **Pathalba.**

Jeremy Thomas had accepted the position of Chair of Pathalba and recognized the good work of the late Dr Alistair Roberston.

JT reviewed the progress Pathalba had made

1. The supply and assessment of 86 Nikon cameras for use in pathology
2. The potential of a synoptic reporting pilot and a demonstration day in Stirling on the 18<sup>th</sup> November
3. The potential use of slide scanning in pathology for EQA, Bowel and Lymphoma cancer review. The potential to utilize time on the Tayside slide scanner would be investigated.
4. The potential purchase of additional static Nikon cameras.

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

#### **Non NSD Funded Specialist Pathology**

The group recognized the work of Dr Graham Beastalls led review. It was expected that there would be an oversight group developed with representation from networks.

#### **Molecular Pathology**

SPAN had continued to pursue the requirement for a national strategy in relationship to molecular diagnostics citing the examples of KRas wild type and the potential of improved treatment using cetuximab.

Highlighted it needs national direction and oversight.

#### Other Networks

NHS Scotland was keen to develop other Networks along the same lines as SPAN and this would potentially include Laboratory Medicine, Imaging and Microbiology. An oversight group may be created from the new and existing Networks.

#### **6. Forensic Post Mortems (Major Incidents)**

FAC had tabled an email from Andrew Miller the Procurator Fiscal in Dumbarton about the pathology provision in the event of a major incident with mass fatalities. The group felt that this would best be addressed at a national level and FAC was asked to contact Andrew to ascertain the detail of the wider planning process. It was noted that areas which would require consideration for planning purposes are :-

1. Pathologist time away from NHS commitment and targets.
2. Training for both pathologists and APT's .

#### **7. Modernising Scientific Careers**

DB updated the group of the MSC programme and the limited background information published on the back of the Darzi report. In its current form would require fundamental change in training and education programmes. This caused some concern within the steering group given the investment in biomedical science education and training in Scotland. It was decided to await any consultation process before responding formally. A meeting with professor Sue Hill is taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh.

#### **8. Audit Scotland Report on Diagnostics**

This is due to be delivered soon and includes endoscopy, imaging and laboratory services. DB updated the group on its progress. A&A and Glasgow & Clyde had been contacted to provide some statistics.

#### **9. Benchmarking and Statistics**

MB highlighted the outcomes of this years Keele report and the discrepancies over the recording of paediatric pathology in particular.

Db presented the draft SPAN statistics for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and thanked everyone for responding.

Discussion surrounded the recording of consultant establishment and PA's, neuropathology and paediatric pathology. DB to circulate a revised template for completion. If there are other areas of contention DB to be notified before the 17<sup>th</sup> October to allow the final returns to be completed.

#### **10. SMASAC Update**

JT updated the group on the structure and function of SMASAC and the recent professional excellence paper presented at the one day SMASAC specialty advisor meeting

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

BG had raised by email if there was recognition of undergraduate teaching in direct clinical contact PA's as funded through ACT finance. No health board area had this recognized within the DCC PA's

JT to respond to BG

**11. AOCB**

JL raised the subject of live donor tissue for use in research. She will contact Jane Hair to ascertain the legislation detail.

Date of next meeting Jan/Feb 2009 tbc