

CM-Path 1 Year Report

June 2017

1. Highlights from Year One of CM-Path

<p>Workstream 1 (Skills & Capacity)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an editorial and article for peer-review, outlining how genomic medicine has impacted pathology and providing suggestions on how pathology training should be transformed as a result Planning for a workshop to bring together international experts in molecular pathology education to generate consensus on postgraduate curriculum for the modern generation of molecular pathologists Planning for a Delphi analysis of molecular pathology in the undergraduate curriculum - small grant of £3,500 awarded by the Pathological Society
<p>Workstream 2 (Clinical Trials)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the 'Pathologists Guide to Research and Clinical Trials' workshop in conjunction with the Royal College of Pathologists (see case study) Formation of a working group of experts to scope, collate and potentially produce guidance for quality assurance of pathology procedures in clinical trials, with the first workshop held on 21st March 2017 Set-up of a forum for clinical trial pathologists to support the formation of a research network and support sharing of expertise
<p>Workstream 3 (Discovery)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger of Confederation of Cancer Biobanks (CCB) with Workstream 3, leading to the recruitment of a Programme Officer to develop a biobank self-evaluation tool to improve sample quality and ensure access of high quality tissue for researchers Completion of a survey to examine attitudes towards academic and molecular pathology, covering 20% of UK consultant pathologists and securing a plenary oral presentation at the Pathological Society Meeting (June 2017, Belfast) Delivery of the 'Current and Future Challenges for Innovative Biomarker Development' workshop with 80 delegates, encouraging biomarker research expertise within the pathology community
<p>Workstream 4 (Technology & Informatics)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with key representatives from industry and regulatory bodies Successful workshop and production of document outlining the opportunities and barriers to technology uptake in pathology Development of strong digital pathology links, including presentation of CM-Path at the International Digital Pathology Congress 2016
<p>CT-PAG (Clinical Trial Pathology Advisory Group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set-up of an advisory group, which will advise on pathology aspects of clinical trials Over 50 members, with 20 members recruited via an open call and nominated representatives from the majority of Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs) to ensure CSG engagement
<p>Crosscutting Themes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient and Public Involvement – Patient groups and patient involvement organisations have been engaged with CM-Path and the role of pathologists Supporting Trainees – CM-Path trainees have been nurtured over the past year Biosample Consent – Engaging with key stakeholders including Genomics England Engaging with Wider Initiatives – Including MRC/EPSRC Molecular Pathology Nodes, the Pathological Society and CRUK Accelerator Awards Engaging with Wider Specialities – Multidisciplinary speakers at CM-Path events and joint workshop with BASO & ACP planned for NCRI Cancer Conference 2017

2. Case Studies

Engaging Pathologist with Clinical Trials and the NCRI Clinical Studies Groups

- Over 50 pathologists attended the 'Pathologist's Guide to Research and Clinical Trials' workshop in December 2016
- The workshop aimed to introduce pathologists to research techniques and practical advice on how to begin working on clinical trials
- The workshop had a focus on NCRI Clinical Study Groups with Dr Ian Lewis introducing the role of the Clinical Studies Groups and Dr Abeer Shaaban (Past Chair of the Translational Breast CSG Subgroup) highlighted the role of pathologists in the CSGs

"Following the clinical trials workshop I applied for the ... CSG and just got appointed – I would have never done that if I hadn't attended." – Delegate email to the CM-Path Programme Manager

- Professor Manuel Salto-Tellez also gave a very well received presentation on the future of training for clinical trial pathologists, Workstream 1 will continue to build on this success



Public and Patient Involvement – CM-Path Consumer Engagement



- CM-Path members Dr Jane Hair, Dr Hayley Morris, Dr Tomoko Iwata and Dr Karin Oien hosted Tom Haswell, CM-Path consumer, on the 30th March 2017.

"I believe cancer research will benefit providing it is realised that pathology is a vital and integral part of cancer research and early input from pathologists in clinical trials is important, perhaps more so now in the era of precision and targeted medicines and next generation sequencing. I felt that the pathologists appreciated the requirement of consumer involvement and I hope my visit underlined how we consumers understand the importance of pathology involvement in all aspects of cancer research." – Tom Haswell's Reflection of the Day



- The CM-Path cross-cutting patient and public involvement theme has been led by Dr Alastair Ironside with input from many colleagues including Dr Alex Freeman, Professor Louise Jones and others

Industry Engagement – Identification of opportunities and barriers for technology uptake in pathology

- Representatives from 26 organisations (pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostic and digital pathology companies) attended a workshop along with members from CM-Path's Workstream 4
- Opportunities and barriers to the uptake of molecular diagnostics and digital pathology were identified through breakout discussions between mixed groups of pathologists and industry representatives
- Short and long-term objectives for Workstream 4 were identified and are currently being actioned, including the setup of an industry forum, which aims to facilitate continued collaboration between industry and pathology

"Many thanks for a terrific meeting yesterday. Very much like to become a member of the CM-Path Industry Forum." – Industry Representative email to CM-Path Programme Manager



Overcoming Barriers to Molecular Diagnostics and Digital Pathology Uptake

NCRI's CM-Path Industry Engagement Workshop, 5 October 2016



We are grateful to the following organisations for sponsoring this event:



Partners in cancer research



CM-Path Biomarker Workshop – Engaging Pathologists with Research

- Approximately 80 delegates attended the CM-Path ‘Current and Future Challenges for Innovative Biomarker Development’ workshop, organised by Dr Maggie Cheang in April 2017

“Congratulations on a successful workshop, it was truly an excellent experience.” – Delegate email to CM-Path Programme Manager

- The day brought together industry sponsors, pathologists, clinical and basic scientists, as well as patient representatives and received excellent feedback. The Discovery Workstream and speakers are now working to produce online resources, as well as planning their next workshop (led by Dr Guy Betts) based around circulating tumour cells and cell free DNA, early in 2018

“CM-Path can play a major role in driving forward higher quality biomarker work.” – Speaker email to the CM-Path Programme Manager



Engagement of Researchers and Members of the Public at the NCRI Cancer Conference 2016

Jessica Lee @Jess_pathology · 8 Nov 2016
Our #CMPath trainees and Bridget Wilkins have done an excellent job at the @RCPath stand at #NCRI2016 @PathologistB



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- Dr Bridget Wilkins, Dr Hayley Morris and Dr Caroline Young set up the Royal College of Pathologist’s CM-Path stand at the NCRI Cancer Conference 2016 to engage researchers and members of the public by explain what happens to tissue after biopsy/surgery

pathologist.barbie @PathologistB · 7 Nov 2016
#NCRI2016 - #CMPath hosted Molecular pathology workshop happening right now! Great talking to oncology colleagues @RCPath Stand 75 today.

- A review of their time at the Conference was published in the Royal College of Pathologist’s bulletin April 2017



Discovery Workstream Visit the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute’s Directors Office

- The CM-Path Discovery Workstream was invited to attend a meeting with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute’s Directors office in March 2017. This included a tour of the campus, presentations from CM-Path and the Sanger Institute, followed by a round table discussion and networking lunch
- The Workstream are now in discussions regarding providing pathology support and expertise to one of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute’s new international research projects

“Thank you so much for visiting on Friday, I really hope you guys enjoyed it, and also had a good meeting in the afternoon. For us it was really helpful, and I hope we can have further discussions and hopefully some collaborations.” – Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute Representative email to CM-Path Programme Manager



3. Next steps for CM-Path

<p>Workstream 1 (Skills & Capacity)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations on the future of the postgraduate molecular pathology curriculum based on international workshop (July 2017) consensus • Generation of guidance for training of pathologists in clinical trials • Development of a set of documents to provide guidance for pathologists that are interested in an academic career
<p>Workstream 2 (Clinical Trials)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the 'Pathologists Guide to Research and Clinical Trials' course to further educate pathologists • Produce a suite of papers to provide harmonisation for quality assurance of pathology in clinical trials • Encourage use of the CM-Path forum to ensure pathology expertise is shared nationally • Develop a directory of clinical trial pathologists linked to expertise to generate a network of pathologists that can be contacted for support and advice
<p>Workstream 3 (Discovery)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, pilot and implement the biobank self-evaluation tool to improve access of high quality tissue for researchers • Develop a CM-Path network of pathology centres across the UK, with centres adhering to a minimum set of standards, ensuring pathology departments are linked up to a national initiative to encourage sharing of best practice and harmonisation of pathology procedures • Deliver further pathology research workshops on 'hot topics' such as circulating tumour DNA to engage pathologists with discovery research and develop guidance for pathology research
<p>Workstream 4 (Technology & Informatics)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setup the CM-Path industry forum to ensure a close collaboration between pathology and industry • Completion of scoping work in molecular diagnostics and digital pathology to inform strategy in these areas
<p>CT-PAG (Clinical Trial Pathology Advisory Group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with funders and wider research networks to promote the purpose of the advisory group • Undergo the first call for proposals to support the delivery of tissue-based clinical research
<p>Crosscutting Themes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient and Public Involvement – Further engagement of patients and public to promote the role of pathologists in the patient care pathway and to educate about the pathway tissue takes after biopsy • Supporting Trainees – A second cohort of trainees has been recruited and will be mentored by the original cohort (most of whom will continue for a further year) • Biosample Consent – Working with Genomics England and other key stakeholders to develop simplified generic consent template • Engaging with Wider Initiatives – Develop a joint workshop in 2018 with the MRC Molecular Pathology Nodes • Engaging with Wider Specialities – Working with BASO to provide multidisciplinary events for trainee members

