

CM-Path Update October 2018

Welcome to Our New Members!

We are delighted that a new cohort of trainee members joined the initiative in June:

- **Dr Cornelia Szecsei**, Cheltenham General Hospital – Workstream 1
- **Dr Vinaya Srirangam**, The Royal London Hospital, London – Workstream 1
- **Dr Kezia Gaitskell**, University of Oxford – Workstream 1
- **Dr Aisling Longworth**, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust – Workstream 2
- **Dr Lisette Martin**, University of Sheffield – Workstream 2
- **Dr Robert Pell**, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust – Workstream 2
- **Dr Elizabeth Hepburn**, Cheltenham General Hospital – Workstream 3
- **Dr Abhi Ghosh**, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust – Workstream 4
- **Dr Elza Tjio**, Hull Royal Infirmary – Workstream 4
- **Dr Meghan Acres**, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS foundation Trust – Workstream 4
- **Dr Thomas Oliver**, Addenbrookes Hospital – Workstream 4

Executive Group Update

Our most recent CM-Path Executive group meeting was held on the **4th September 2018**. We focussed on preparations for our CM-Path Year Three Review, which is required as part of our investment from the NCRI. CM-Path must submit a report to the NCRI Strategy Advisory Group (SAG) in March 2019 for approval of continuation of funding. Given that CM-Path objectives were set back in 2015/2016, we want to use this opportunity to review and refine our objectives in light of the many changes in landscape and what we've achieved since then.

You will all have a chance to input into the review at the CM-Path Annual meeting on the **22nd November 2018**. A pre-read will be circulated two weeks before the meeting. For those that cannot attend the meeting please send any comments to Helen Pitman, CM-Path Programme manager.

CM-Path Annual Meeting

We hope you'll be able to join us at our CM-Path Annual Meeting! If you haven't let us know if you will be attending, please let Helen know by **2nd November 2018**. Emails will be coming out to confirm attendance and any dietary requirements but please do get in touch with any questions.

When: Thursday 22nd November 2018.

Where: The Holiday Inn, Regents Park, London.

Time: Arrive from 9.30 for networking. Meeting will start at 10.00.

After: Drinks reception from 16.30 onwards.

Preparation: A pre-read will be circulated two weeks before the meeting to help you prepare for the discussion at the meeting.

We will have some presentations to begin the day and then two breakout sessions for the afternoon to review our progress and plan our work for years four and five of the programme.

NB: There will be a **professional photographer** at the annual meeting. We are hoping to take some great shots of the event for our website. If you would prefer for your photo not to be used to promote CM-Path in the future please let Helen know. He will also be taking some **headshots** throughout the meeting. If you would like a headshot we might be able to schedule you in that the breaks. Please let Helen know if you would be interested.

NCRI Conference

This year the NCRI conference is taking place on the **4th-6th November** in **Glasgow**.

Please let Helen know if you will be coming to the NCRI conference.

We will be hosting a **CM-Path meet up** at the conference:

When: Sunday 4th November 21.00.

Between 18.30 and 21.00 we'll be networking at the drinks reception, as shown in the conference programme. We will meet at the drinks reception at 20.45 then head over for dinner.

Where: Nonya Glasgow, 10 Claremont Street, Glasgow, G3 7HA.

If you are going to the NCRI conference and would be interested in helping Helen out to publicise CM-Path via social media then please get in touch. We would like to blog about CM-Path/pathology and how it links to some of the presentations.

We are looking forward to hearing from our CM-Path colleagues presenting at the conference:

- **Manuel Salto-Telez** - Tuesday, 6 Nov 2018 11:00-12:30 Digital pathology
- **Kathreena Kurian** - Sunday, 4 Nov 2018 16:35-18:35 Modelling the biology of glioblastoma

Updates from CM-Path presentations to external stakeholders/audiences

NCRI Chair's Forum

Every 6-12 months, the NCRI brings together the Chairs of the CSGs (Clinical Studies Groups), Clinical Trials Units and NCRI initiatives including CM-Path, and NCRI secretariat. The NCRI website has a roundup of the most recent meeting on 25th and 26th September:

<https://www.ncri.org.uk/news-items/round-up-of-ncris-chairs-forum/>

As described there, **Karin Oien** gave "an update on our pathology initiative (CM-Path). So much has been achieved over the last two years of collaborative working, including the launch of the CM-Path Biobanking Sample Quality Improvement Tool and the Clinical Trials in Pathology Advisory Group (CT-PAG) which provides advice on pathology requirements in clinical trial design to researchers, being open to everyone not only CM-Path members." We also had the opportunity to update and join wider discussions on capacity-building, tissue access and quality assurance, funding for research time and the evolving landscape in genomics, digital imaging and data, and to highlight what pathology - and pathologists (illustrated with a lot of CM-Path photos!) contribute.

Workstream 1 Update

RCPATH Curriculum – Introducing Molecular Pathology and revising Research methodology

- Workstream 1 are working with RCPATH to discuss the curriculum developments that CM-Path would like to encourage regarding molecular pathology and research.
- A meeting is planned with RCPATH and further updates will be provided at the annual meeting.

Genomics MDM meeting with NHSE

- NHSE are linking with CM-Path and other stakeholders to deliver a meeting on the **18th December** in London to focus on pathology involvement in molecular and genomic MDMs.
- CM-Path are working with NHSE on the agenda to help ensure its relevance to pathologists and their contribution within these MDMs.

Workstream 2 Update

Pathology in the clinical research pathway

- Workstream 2, led by **Elena Provenzano**, are currently writing a paper mapping pathology involvement across the entire research pathway. The paper will discuss the many ways pathologists are involved in clinical trials, and challenges associated given current workforce and financial constraints - and possible solutions.
- Two papers will be written, one for pathologists and one for other disciplines/specialities to educate and raise awareness about the importance of involving pathologists in trials and how this might be undertaken.

Pathologist activities in trials detailed on the costing template and Schedule of Events

- Workstream 2 are working with the NIHR and the HRA to ensure that the costing template and schedule of events for clinical trials contain pathologist related activities.

Quality Assurance papers

- The Quality Assurance Working group met back in March 2017 at a meeting chaired by **Clare Verrill**.
- The group has completed a suite of four papers for peer review publication to share the outcomes of the workshop with the wider community.
- These are currently being considered by Journal of Clinical Pathology, titles listed below:
 - The use of Digital Pathology and Image Analysis in Clinical Trials.
 - Pathology regulation and accreditation for research: a commentary.
 - Training and accreditation standards for pathologists undertaking clinical trial work in the United Kingdom: the NCRI CM-Path consensus view.
 - Guidance for pathologists and laboratories undertaking clinical trial work: the CM-Path quality assurance in clinical trials consensus conference recommendations: Scoring and Reporting.
- Once these papers are published, Helen will share them as weblinks; if you are interested in reading these beforehand in their current form, please let us know.

Tissue Access paper

- Led by **Clare Verrill and Philip Macklin**, CM-Path surveyed UK cellular pathology departments regarding their attitudes and practices relating to release of human tissue from their diagnostic archives for use in clinical trial research.
- The survey demonstrated that there is wide variation in practice across the UK and identifies barriers to release of human tissue for clinical trial research. Until we can overcome these obstacles, patient samples will remain inaccessible to research. Therefore, this study highlights the urgent need for clear and coordinated national guidance on this issue.

- This report has been published in Journal of Clinical Pathology. Read the article here: <http://jcp.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/jclinpath-2018-205476>

CT-PAG

- CT-PAG has reviewed over 40 applications for CRUK through their EMERP and CERP committees.
- Most recently **Maggie Cheang and Craig Robson**, went to present at CERP and EMERP respectively to gather feedback about the CT-PAG review process.
- We will be using this feedback to build on how we review and how we grow the number of reviews we deliver for a range of medical research funders.
- CT-PAG has been approached directly by several individual researchers at an early stage where we have provided detailed feedback before they have gone on to submit as full applications.

Workstream 3 Update

Biobanking

- The biobanking subgroup held a well-attended symposium on the **17th May 2018** in Leeds to discuss best practice sample handling and launch the sample quality improvement tool.
- If you would like to download the tool please click [here](#).

Biomarker Workshop Series

“The Liquid Biopsy: Circulating Tumour Cells and Bloodborne Biomarkers”

- The Discovery Workstream held their second annual biomarker workshop on **8th March 2018** at the Royal Society of Medicine, with the aim of engaging trainee and consultant pathologists with research.
- The workshop was held in association with the PHG Foundation and Cancer Research UK’s Precision Medicine team.
- Following the meeting, **Susan Richman** wrote up a report of the day for CM-Path. This will appear in the next RCPATH Bulletin so keep your eyes out for it, or you can read it now on the CM-Path website [here](#)
- Following the meeting a consensus statement focussing on ‘What is the role of pathologists in the implementation of liquid biopsy technologies’ was written, led by **Guy Betts** alongside the PHG Foundation, CRUK and Genomics England. This will also be published in the next RCPATH bulletin and you can read it now on the CM-Path website [here](#).
- The WS3 biomarker subgroup are now preparing for their third workshop – A Practical Guide to Pathology Research using FFPE tissue on the **2nd April 2019** at the Royal Society of Medicine.



CM-Path Network Development

- The CM-Path Network is now up and running and welcoming membership requests.
- We have circulated the 'standard' CM-Path Network slide deck to representatives from each location represented by CM-Path members. We would encourage you to present to your pathology department and encourage uptake of this network.
- You will hear more about the network and be able to input to the development of it at the annual meeting in November.
- We hope that pathology departments will become part of the network to:
 - Encourage and establish best practice for molecular testing across the UK
 - Support pathologists/pathology centres to engage in tissue-based research
 - Support academic and clinical training and development
- The benefits of joining the CM-Path Network:
 - Links to a UK-wide pathology network with a wide array of expertise
 - Support, advice and regular communication regarding molecular testing in the NHS
 - Access to expertise in best practice tissue handling and biobanking
 - Regular information updates, exciting workshops, opinion pieces circulated
 - Advice on academic training opportunities
 - Engaging with research opportunities across the UK
- If you would like more information about the CM-Path Network then visit the CM-Path website [here](#).

Workstream 4 Update

Digital Pathology

- On the 7th June the Digital Pathology subgroup held an event titled “Artificial Intelligence/Image Analysis in Histopathology Workshop” co-hosted with BIVDA.
- The aim of the workshop was to focus on the use and potential use of image analysis and artificial intelligence tools in clinical histopathology laboratories. The aim is to identify the steps in a roadmap from development to diagnostic use in a UKAS accredited laboratory with an emphasis on identifying challenges and potential solutions.
- The subgroup has written a position paper, led by CM-Path trainee member **Richard Colling** and will be looking to publish this soon.

Molecular Diagnostics

- The Molecular Diagnostics subgroup of Workstream 4, led by **Sarah Coupland**, have held two industry engagement days and you can find the reports from these meetings on the CM-Path website [here](#) and [here](#).



- The subgroup has written a position paper led by **Philip Macklin** which is currently being finalised. We will send this round to the CM-Path membership in due course.
- Following two successful meetings, a third was organised for 11th October 2018. This meeting updated on the status of the Genomic Laboratory Service (GLS) and how its launch will change the current path of molecular diagnostic test development from conception to use in a clinical laboratory. The aim was to update the roadmap developed in the previous CM-Path Molecular Diagnostic Forum in light of the introduction of the GLS and identify anticipated challenges and potential solutions. Discussion included how the GLS labs may interact, and how academia and industry may come up with new molecular tests and how these can be introduced into the test directory and disseminated. We also discussed what is on the horizon, scenarios where more than one method exists to test for the same marker and how the GLS may be monitored to support uptake, implementation and delivery.
- This was an interesting meeting with good discussions. The roadmap will be updated and circulated with the position paper mentioned above.
- Next steps for this forum are currently being discussed.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the CM-Path membership for your hard work over the last two and a half years. We look forward to seeing some of you at the NCRI conference and most of you at the CM-Path Annual meeting.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the activities discussed above, please get in touch with Helen Pitman, the CM-Path Programme Manager, by emailing helen.pitman@ncri.org.uk

