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2016 has been a year of changing faces for the NCPTS. The success of the programme is critically dependent on the people who make up the NCPTS and this year has seen significant change both within the Training Team and on the National Training Committee (NTC). Those who departed have left big shoes to fill. Fortunately our new training team and committee members are settling in well and ably filling the vacant positions, so we are in good heart heading into 2017.

**The NCPTS Training Team departures.** After several years as a consistent team we were sad to farewell both Abed Kader, NCPTS Cytoscientist (SurePath) and Pauline Ward, NCPTS Administrator during 2016. Abed brought a wealth of cytology experience to his role and high expectations about the quality of our work, which benefited us all. Pauline’s able administrative assistance, cytology background and excellent interpersonal skills have been invaluable during the challenging years of establishing the NCPTS. Both Abed and Pauline have been highly valued members of our close-knit team and we are very grateful for all that they contributed during their years with the NCPTS. We wish them well with their new endeavours.

**The NCPTS Training Team 2017.** We are delighted to welcome **Ashika Bissoon**, NCPTS Cytoscientist (SurePath) who will be well known to those in the cytology sector and **Melinda Paterson**, NCPTS Administrator who has a research background (PhD) in molecular science to the NCPTS Training Team. Both Melinda and Ashika are already making a valuable contribution to the NCPTS and we are excited about working closely with them both in 2017.



**The 2017 NCPTS Training team**  
*Ashika Bissoon, Melinda Paterson, Margaret Sage and Christl Kirstein*

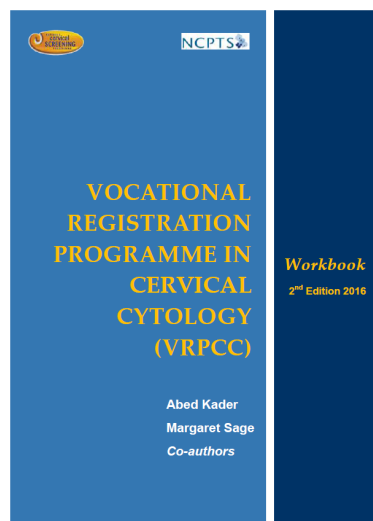


**The current NTC Committee**

*From left; David Innes, Margaret Sage, Ursula Van Den Heever, Christina Holdaway, Wendy McBurnie, Diane Kenwright, Ashika Bissoon, Kathryn Payne, Corinne Hill, Christl Kirstein, Meik Dilcher, Fahimeh Rahnama, Andrew Miller, Peter Bethwaite*

The National Training Committee provides valuable advice and oversight to the NCPTS Training Team under the chairpersonship of Dr Diane Kenwright. New members appointed in 2016 are Ursula Van Den Heever (recent pathology graduate), Corinne Hill (Histoscientist) and Meik Dilcher (Molecular scientist). Thanks to all members who contribute their time and interest to the NTC.

## NCPTS 2016 TRAINING INITIATIVES



### The VRPCC WORKBOOK 2nd Edition

Over the past two years, the VRPCC Workbook has been fully revised and updated to incorporate the move to 100% Liquid-based Cytology and HPV testing, as currently used in New Zealand. Thanks to all those associated with this large project, particularly Abed Kader (co-author), Liz Pringle, Paul Spek and Andrew Miller (peer reviewers). The revised Workbook and accompanying Logbook are now available for future VRPCC candidates. The Workbook will be distributed in 2017 to pathology registrars (via data sticks) and to new registrars commencing training in pathology in future years.

### CYTOSCIENTISTS and CYTOTECHNICIANS

The three topics selected for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians for 2016 were Crowded sheets, AIS and ASC-US vs re-active samples. These were the topics for all workshops and for the circulated teaching sets of glass slides.

**Australian Cytoscientist-led Workshops.** Annette O’Leary, a senior cytoscientist from Adelaide ran three workshops at SurePath laboratories in April. The workshops were again well received. In addition to the 2016 topics selected, Annette provided an update about the Renewal of the Australian NCSP and lead a session looking an some challenging unknown cases. We are grateful for the continued willingness of our Australian colleagues to come to New Zealand to provide a fresh perspective on cytology morphology.

**New Zealand Cytoscientist-led Workshops.** Three workshops were held in three ThinPrep laboratories during November. Tamaki Inoue (LabPlus) presented a workshop at APS, Christl Kirstein (APS) visited Medlab Central and Christina Holdaway (Medlab Central) presented at LabPlus.

**Two teaching sets of glass slides** were circulated to each cytology laboratory, using ThinPrep or SurePath slides as appropriate for the laboratory site. The sets were compiled by Christl Kirstein (Two ThinPrep sets), Abed Kader (one SurePath set) and Ashika Bissoon (one SurePath set).

### MOLECULAR SCIENTISTS

The 2016 annual newsletter for molecular scientists will be circulated in December, providing an update on developments relating to HPV testing for primary screening. A Forum Board on the NCPTS website will be available in 2017 for molecular scientists performing HPV testing. This will provide a place where comments or questions about HPV testing can be posted, to facilitate communication between molecular scientists. Further information will be distributed to molecular scientists in the December 2016 Molecular Scientists’ newsletter.

## **PATHOLOGISTS and ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY REGISTRARS**

The **anatomic pathology registrar annual weekend workshops** were held in Auckland and Christchurch in October again this year. Thanks to Dr Diane Kenwright for providing teaching in cervical histopathology, Drs Andrew Miller (SurePath) and Margaret Lovell-Smith (ThinPrep) for cytology multiheader sessions and Dr Ai-Ling Tan (Auckland) for presenting a session on managing women with cervical cancer.



**Six teaching slide sets (three ThinPrep and three SurePath)** were distributed to all Anatomic Pathology registrars during the year.

**Support for registrars sitting the RCPA examination in Cytology** was provided by way of mock examination slide tests which candidates completed in the weeks prior to the RCPA examination. Additional cytology teaching slide sets were also sent to Wellington Registrars.



## **CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS**



### **Speakers at the 2016 NZIMLS ASM**

*From left: Deborah Mills, Ashika Bissoon, Mary Webster, Margaret Sage, Tamaki Inoue and Muna Bulbul*

The NCPTS half-day workshop at the **NZIMLS ASM** in Rotorua in August included three conference reports from the 19th International Congress of Cytology held in Yokohama (May/June 2016). Two speakers (*Mary Webster* and *Tamaki Inoue*) attended the Congress as recipients of NCPTS International Scholarships. Other talks included a cytology quiz of four unknown ThinPrep cases (Presenter: *Muna Bulbul*), a presentation about the UK Artistic Trial relating to the use of HPV testing for primary screening (*Margaret Sage*) and an update from the NCSP about the workforce implications of moving to HPV testing for primary screening in New Zealand (*Deborah Mills*).

The theme of the NCPTS contribution to the **RCPA-NZ Annual Scientific Meeting** in Napier in September was The Pathology of HPV-related disease. Dr Bryan Knight from the Victorian Cytology Service spoke about plans to move to HPV primary screening in Australia and discussed several difficult histopathology cases with practical diagnostic teaching points. Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh then outlined the research she is currently undertaking at Massey University on HPV-associated Oropharyngeal cancer in New Zealand. Jane O'Hallahan (Clinical Director, NSU) concluded the session with an update about the HPV primary screening project in New Zealand.

## TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS for 2017

Implications for the workforce of the move to primary screening with HPV testing in 2018 were discussed at length at the annual meeting of the National Training Committee in November 2016. A review of the structure and function of the NCPTS was also undertaken, after 5 years of operation. Outcomes of the discussion include plans to run a national training day focusing on topics such as the use of HPV testing for primary screening, HPV test methodologies and immunization. This will be organised by the NCPTS with invitations to all laboratory staff who provide reporting services to the NCSP. Further details including the date and venue will be announced early in 2017.

Other programmes that will continue as usual in 2017 will be the Australian cytoscientist-led workshops for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians (ThinPrep labs), the NZ cytoscientist-led workshops (SurePath labs), AP registrar workshops, and slide rotation sets for registrars and cytoscientists/cytotechnicians. Plans for a contribution to the RCPA -NZ ASM in Rotorua is also underway. In-house training for various sector groups are also being planned.

## NCPTS 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**NCPTS Scholarships** are awarded annually to cover expenses for conferences and courses within Australasia and further afield internationally.

Recipients of NCPTS scholarships awarded in 2016 for 2017 courses and conferences are:

Akira Akagi (Cytoscientist)	Azusa Akagi (Cytoscientist)	Mary Budd (Cytoscientist)
Devanaseen Govender (Cytoscientist)	Christl Kirstein (Cytoscientist)	Jenny Yin (Cytoscientist)
Savannah Young (Cytoscientist)		

Seven **Australasian scholarship** recipients will attend the Australian Society of Cytology Annual Business and Scientific Meeting in Canberra in October 2017. There were no applications for **International scholarships** this year.

Five scholarships were also awarded to fund attendance at the **2016 NZIMLS ASM**. The recipients were Christine Hide, Janet Trusler, Lois Barnett, Ashika Bissoon and Glenis Mangino.

Thanks again to all who have contributed to the work of the NCPTS in any way in 2016. Our collective efforts make the work possible, enjoyable and of value. We look forward to working with you all again in 2017.

*We wish you a happy holiday season!*

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