

The NCPTS pulled together a huge amount of training in 2018! As we move towards HPV primary screening, there is lots to talk about. Highlights of 2018 have been stimulating talks and workshops from four invited international speakers. Nick Dudding and Allan Wilson, both highly experienced UK scientists, ran cytomorphology-based workshops in each of the cervical cytology laboratories. Assoc/Prof Matt Quick (USA) provided a workshop for histopathologists in cervical pathology and Assoc/Prof Marion Saville spoke at the second NCPTS National Training Day about the transition to HPV primary screening in Australia.

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Nick Dudding



Allan Wilson

Nick Dudding and Allan Wilson Cytomorphology Workshops

Nick Dudding, Consultant Biomedical Scientist and Advanced Practitioner in Cytology (England) and Allan Wilson, Lead Biomedical Scientist in Cellular Pathology and Advanced Practitioner in Cytology (Scotland) are already well known to a number of New Zealanders and it was fantastic to have them both back in New Zealand as tutors for the cytomorphology workshop series. Nick visited the three SurePath laboratories, while Allan visited the three ThinPrep laboratories. Even their long titles don't convey their breadth and depth of experience and expertise resulting from years of involvement in just about every aspect of cervical cytology in their respective countries. It was truly our pleasure and privilege to have them in New Zealand running our workshops and sharing our common goal of providing a top-shelf cervical cytology service to women in our respective countries. Many of our challenges are similar, as we all prepare to move to HPV primary screening.



Nick in action at Canterbury Health Laboratories

Matthew Quick Histopathology Workshop

As someone with expertise in gynaecological histopathology and medical education, Assoc/Prof Matt Quick was the perfect person to deliver a workshop in cervical histopathology. Matt was the main speaker at the RCPA-NZ ASM in Wellington in September and kindly agreed to run an NCPTS workshop prior to the conference. We really enjoyed meeting Matt and convey our thanks for his inspiring teaching. Thanks to the RCPA and Wellington SCL for assisting with funding and facilities.



Matt meets New Zealand histopathologists around the multiheader

NCPTS 2018 TRAINING INITIATIVES

The second **NCPTS National Training Day** was held on November 22nd at the Wellington Clinical School of Medicine. Funding was provided to scientists working in cytology, histology or HPV testing and to cytotechnicians working in cervical screening to cover costs incurred in travelling to Wellington. Sixty participants attended.

The main speaker was **Assoc/Professor Marion Saville** from the VCS Foundation in Melbourne who provided a highly topical and very interesting talk about changes and challenges in Australia following the introduction of HPV primary screening in Dec 2017.

Other talks included a clinical session on cervical histopathology (**Assoc/Professor Diane Kenwright**) and colposcopy (**Dr Gary Fentiman**), an update about the HPV immunisation programme in New Zealand, (**Assoc/Professor Nikki Turner**), an update about changes coming to the NCSP (**Dr Margaret Sage**) and a report about the Individual EQA programme in New Zealand cytology laboratories (**Dr Harold Neal**). **Dr Min Lo**, a sexual health physician from Auckland provided a very insightful talk about dealing with HPV in clinical practice, coping admirably with relocation to a different lecture theatre because of a power cut! By popular request **Jane Davis** returned again this year to run her workshop on Coping with Change. Thanks to all speakers and participants for contributing to an interesting and worthwhile day.



Marion Saville discusses HPV primary screening in Australia



HPV Test Technologies in use in New Zealand is a PowerPoint talk developed by Melinda Paterson. Thanks to Melinda for making use of her expertise as a research molecular scientist to assist the NCPTS.



Two teaching sets of glass slides were circulated to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians at each cytology laboratory, using ThinPrep or SurePath slides. The sets were compiled by Christl Kirstein (ThinPrep sets) and Ashika Bissoon (SurePath sets). Each set comprised a mix of interesting and difficult cases of educational value across the cytology spectrum. Thanks to Christl and Ashika for the work they put in each year to develop these interesting case sets.

ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY REGISTRARS

First and second year registrars attended workshops in Wellington and Auckland in March. These provide an introduction to cervical cytology and cervical cancer prevention. Morphology workshops for **senior pathology registrars** were held in Auckland and Christchurch in October, with assistance from Drs Andrew Miller (SurePath cytology multiheader sessions, Christchurch), Diane Kenwright (cervical histopathology, Christchurch) and Amanda Charlton (Cervical histopathology, Auckland). Amanda and Diane also contributed sessions on “Learning how to learn”: practical ways to study effectively. A new workshop for **final year registrars** who have passed all their exams and are about to become consultants was held in Auckland in October.

Six teaching slide sets (three ThinPrep and three SurePath) were distributed to all Anatomic Pathology registrars during the year. Thanks to Drs Andrew Miller, Peter Fitzgerald and Richard Massey for their contributions to the SurePath sets.

Registrars sitting the RCPA examination in Cytology were provided with additional teaching slide sets and mock examination slide tests in the weeks prior to the RCPA examination.

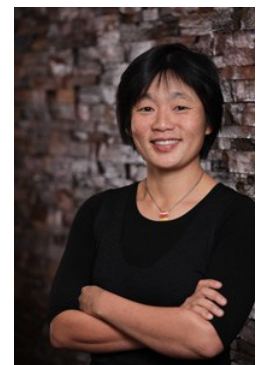


Diane Kenwright teaches cervical histopathology to senior registrars in Christchurch

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr Min Lo, a sexual health specialist with a particular interest in HPV spoke about clinical aspects of HPV infection at the **RCPA-NZ ASM** in Wellington in September. She covered the significance of an “HPV: Detected” result in older women, fluctuating HPV test results, and the impact of a positive HPV test result for individual women. Margaret Sage discussed a LabPLUS study of the accuracy of SNOMED coding on the NCSP Register, and NCSP plans to raise the recommended age to commence cervical screening (by cytology) to 25 years of age in 2019.

Diane Kenwright, Andrew Miller and Jill Lamb (Lead Colposcopy Nurse, Christchurch Hospital) gave a combined talk at the **NZIMLS conference** in Christchurch in August entitled: New Scenarios in Cervical Cancer Prevention: a case-base presentation.



NATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE (NTC)

The NTC chaired by Associate Professor Diane Kenwright, provides valuable advice and oversight to the NCPTS Training Team. New members appointed in 2018 were Herman Venter (TP Cytoscientist), Matt Collier (Histoscientist) and Amanda Charlton (Histopathologist). The committee holds an annual face-to-face meeting in November and a teleconference in May. In 2018, two subcommittees operated: one discussed digital pathology and new technologies, getting ZOOM software up and running for NCPTS teleconferences. The second subcommittee completed a review of NCPTS registrar training including refashioning the registrar workshop structure. Thanks to all NTC members who continue to contribute their time and interest.



The current NTC Committee members are:

Diane Kenwright (Chair), David Innes, Peter Bethwaite, Andrew Miller, Kathryn Payne, Amanda Charlton, Ursula Van Den Heever, Charlotte Grobler, Herman Venter, Matt Collier, Christine Hide, Meik Dilcher, Fahimeh Rahnama.

Ex officio NCPTS members: Margaret Sage, Christl Kirstein, Ashika Bissoon.

Administrative assistance: Melinda Paterson (NCPTS Administrator)

TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS for 2019

After a busy year running training events in 2018, the NCPTS Training Team is planning to spend more time developing educational training resources in 2019. We will also be incorporating more individuals into running training sessions to build more teaching experience and expertise within New Zealand. Plans include:

1. Coordinating a cytoscientist exchange scheme between New Zealand laboratories for the cytomorphology workshops for scientists and technicians (as used in previous years).
2. Incorporating more pathologists as tutors in the various registrar workshops that run during the year.
3. Developing more education modules on the NCPTS website.
4. Providing three teaching sets of slides to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians, (previously two sets).
5. Developing in-house teaching PowerPoint talks on the following topics for distribution to laboratories:
 - i. Cytology report recommendations in tricky clinical situations
 - ii. Overview of the roles of Cytology/Histology/HPV testing in cervical cancer prevention
 - iii. Controlling HPV contamination
6. Providing a further PowerPoint talk to molecular scientists on HPV test technologies, focusing on technologies not in current use in New Zealand.

Note: There will be NO NATIONAL TRAINING DAY in 2019, as the funding has been used to award scholarships for 2019 conferences instead.

NCPTS 2018 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Recipients of NCPTS scholarships awarded in 2018 for 2019 courses and conferences are:

Manu Auvele (Cytotechnician), Lois Barnett (Cytotechnician), Ashika Bissoon (Cytoscientist), Muna Bulbul (Cytoscientist), Lisa Ding (Cytoscientist), May Du (Cytoscientist), Christine Hide (Cytotechnician), Nirup Kumar (Cytoscientist), Bing Liang (Cytoscientist), Melody Mao (Histoscientist), Fahimeh Rahnama (Molecular Scientist), Ruth Williams (Histoscientist) and Sheryl Worthington (Cytoscientist).

Eleven recipients will attend the 2019 International Cytology Congress in Sydney and two recipients will attend the Australian Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) 2019 Scientific Meeting in Auckland.

Thanks again to all who have contributed to the work of the NCPTS in 2018. We look forward to working with you all again in 2019.

We wish you a happy holiday season!

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