

Breaking news!! The NCPTS is going digital!!

Spurred on by a decision of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) to introduce digital images instead of glass slides for the RCPA examination in Cytology in 2020, the NCPTS has embarked on a major project to convert 500 NCPTS Teaching Set cervical cytology glass slides into e-cases for the RCPA website. The project involves close collaboration across two countries and three cities, with a close-knit team of pathologists, scientists and administrators. The project is jointly funded through the NCPTS and the RCPA with support from the RCPA QAP. Thanks are certainly due to all involved.

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Vanessa White, RCPA Project coordinator. Oversight and funding support
Jorge Verastegui, RCPA IT Developer. Uploads the images and case documentation to the RCPA website

Julia Pagliuso, RCPA QAP Manager coordinates the RCPA QAP assistance
Stephanie Gay, RCPA QAP scans the slides to create the images

Gwenda Lawrence, Cytoscientist QC's the images, adds annotations to direct the viewer, enters case details into an RCPA template, re-dots the glass slides after scanning



---> Path of travel of the NCPTS glass slides

Margaret Sage - NCPTS Project Coordinator and ThinPrep Cytopathologist. Selects ThinPrep cases, reviews annotations and e-cases prior to release to the RCPA

Melinda Paterson, NCPTS Administrator Cleans slides prior to scanning, arranges rotations of slides to/from Sydney and Auckland, coordinates case documentation, provides admin support to other team members

Andrew Miller, SurePath Cytopathologist. Selects SurePath cases, reviews annotations and e-cases prior to release to the RCPA

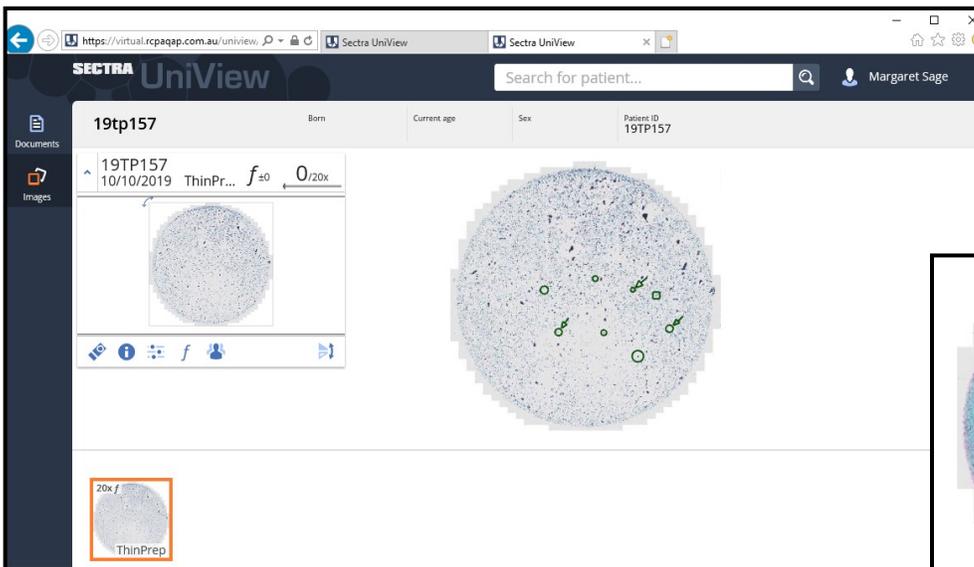
Thanks also to two project advisors: Amanda Charlton (Auckland) and Simone van Es (Sydney) for assistance with setting up the project. Amanda and Simone will present a poster with instructional videos at the RCPA update meeting in March 2020 "Get prepared for the 2020 RCPA Digital Cytology exam: Make and share digital cytology slide sets using Sectra", to help users become familiar with digital cytology on the Sectra Platform. And finally thanks to the NCPTS National Training Committee members who have been enthusiastic, encouraging and supportive from the outset.

The e-cases will include 250 SurePath cases and 250 ThinPrep cases and access will be through the RCPA website at rcpa.edu.au/Education.eCases-Search, with the first cases available from early 2020. Access for cytoscientists and cytotechnicians in New Zealand will be arranged through the RCPA website once the images are available. **Images** for each case are stored on the Sectra Platform on RCPA QAP servers.

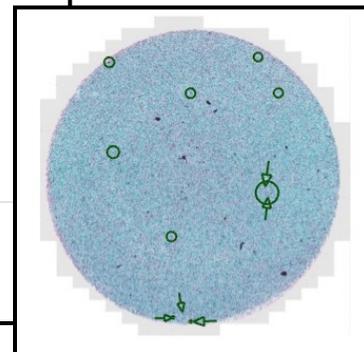
USING THE NCPTS SLIDE SCAN PROJECT CASES

The Sectra Platform uses cloud computing, so there is no software to download or install, and there is minimal lag-time. Slides can be viewed from any internet connected device, such as work or computer, iPad, tablet or mobile phone. Quality is only limited by your screen resolution. There are great zoom in/out controls and the image is stacked with a Z-plane so that focusing up and down (for example, through thick groups) is possible across the entire image. Green annotation marks and arrows are added to the image to direct the viewer to features described.

Amanda has kindly provided a demonstration of slide viewing on a mobile phone in this video <https://youtu.be/MvuPfyLkSdQ>. You can also scan the QR code with a QR code reader app on your mobile device.



Left: Screenshot of a ThinPrep case viewed on the Sectra Platform
Below: An annotated SurePath image



Back on the RCPA website: Patient information is provided when the case is opened. Clicking on an image thumbnail will open the image in Sectra. After reviewing the image, the viewer can click on the Case Details, revealing a morphologic description, the final diagnosis and additional follow-up information and comments.

19TP157

PATIENT INFORMATION

Age: 22 Gender: Female

Clinical Information: First cervical cytology sample

REVIEW CASE DETAILS

✓ MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

There are small groups and crowded sheets of high N:C ratio cells showing variation in nuclear size and shape, nuclear membrane irregularity and chromasia. The chromatin is granular and evenly distributed in the nucleus, The cytoplasm is delicate or metaplastic - typical of transformation zone cells. There is an embedded mitosis (arrowed) and some groups contain apoptotic debris. Note the reactive benign endocervical strips - this is not AIS. There is a shift in flora suggesting bacterial vaginosis.

✓ DIAGNOSIS

HIGH-GRADE SQUAMOUS INTRAEPITHELIAL LESION (HSIL).

SHIFT IN FLORA SUGGESTIVE OF BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS

✓ COMMENT

CIN 3 was confirmed in cervical biopsies and was completely excised in the subsequent LLETZ biopsy.

NCPTS TRAINING INITIATIVES 2019

ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY REGISTRARS

First and second year registrars attended workshops in Wellington and Auckland in March. Morphology workshops for **senior pathology registrars** were held in Auckland and Christchurch in October/November.

The NCPTS welcomed four new pathologist tutors for the 2019 NCPTS Registrar workshops. Charlotte Grobler (Medlab Central), and Ursula Van Den Heever (APS) took the cytopathology multiheader sessions at the Year 1-2 workshops and Sadiq Al-Sakini (APS) took the multiheader sessions at the senior workshop in Auckland. Kathryn Payne (LabPLUS) also joined the team, running the senior histopathology teaching in Auckland. Along with our existing tutors Andrew Miller (CHL) (SurePath multiheader sessions, Christchurch seniors), Diane Kenwright (Wellington SCL) (Histopathology for seniors, Christchurch) and Amanda Charlton (LabPLUS) (Digital cytology, seniors workshop in Auckland) we have an able and enthusiastic team of cytopathologist and histopathologist tutors teaching our registrars.

Six cytology teaching slide sets (three ThinPrep and three SurePath sets of 10 cases) and one cervical histopathology set were distributed to all Anatomic Pathology registrars. Thanks to Drs Andrew Miller, Peter Fitzgerald and Richard Massey for providing the SurePath sets and Diane Kenwright and Peter Bethwaite for providing the cervical histopathology set. **Three Registrars sitting the RCPA examination in Cytology** were provided with additional teaching slide sets and mock examination slide tests prior to the RCPA examination.

CYTOSCIENTISTS/CYTOTECHNICIANS

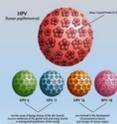
Three teaching sets of glass slides were circulated to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians at each cytology laboratory, using ThinPrep or SurePath slides. The sets were compiled by Christl Kirstein (ThinPrep sets) and Ashika Bissoon (SurePath sets). Each set comprised a mix of interesting and difficult cases 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.

Cytoscientist/cytotechnician workshops in the six laboratories reporting cervical cytology were taken by New Zealand tutors. There were two parts: Distinguishing high-grade squamous and glandular lesions focussed on some of the most difficult cytologic morphology to interpret. Thanks to Christl and Ashika for the work they put in to find difficult and interesting cases for discussion. And to the tutors who took these sessions: Tamaki Inoue (Medlab Central), Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh (LabPLUS), Richard Massey (Pathlab) and Rachael Sunitsch (CHL and SCL Dunedin). The second session was histopathology-based, looking at combined high-grade squamous and glandular lesions when these occur concurrently. Thanks to Drs Hiba Hameed for providing a 30 min PowerPoint on this topic, and to Kathryn Payne and Richard Massey/Ashika for putting together the multiheader histopathology case sets. Thanks also to the histopathology presenters at the various lab sites—Kathryn Payne (LabPLUS), Elaine Bekker (Pathlab), Rachael van der Griend (CHL) and Martha Nicholson (SCL Dunedin). The Workshop at APS and the histopathology sessions at Medlab Central will occur in 2020. Thanks to all involved!

MOLECULAR SCIENTISTS

New Generation HPV Test Technologies

Developed by Melinda Paterson and Margaret Sage
Reviewed by Meik Dilcher, Fahimeh Rahnama
NCPTS Training Team
2019



New Generation HPV Test Technologies is a PowerPoint talk developed by Melinda Paterson in conjunction with the NCPTS National Training Committee molecular scientists Miek Dilcher and Fahimeh Rahnama. The talk covers three HPV technologies available internationally but not in current use in New Zealand, and has been distributed to the six laboratories performing hrHPV testing for use as part of their in-house training. Thanks to Melinda for using her research molecular scientist expertise to create this teaching resource.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Associate Professor Peter Sykes, University of Otago Christchurch Clinical School and Gynaecologic Oncologist Christchurch Hospital, spoke at the RCPA-NZ ASM on Queenstown in November. His talk: **The clinical importance of CIN 2 in women under 25: Results of a large multicentre study**, updated pathologists about the outcomes of the PRINCESS trial. Kathryn Payne (Histopathologist, LabPLUS) outlined **changes to cervical histopathology report** introduced under the RCPA Structured Reporting Protocols and Jenny Bateson (Ministry of Health) spoke about **Recording cervical cancers on the New Zealand Cancer Registry (NZCR)**, providing insights about the importance of accurately describing invasive cervical cancers for correct NZCR coding.

TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS for 2020

1. The NCPTS Slide Scan Project is due for completion in Dec 2020.
2. There will be a National Training Day in November 2020
3. An in-house workshop series for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians will be provided - the content and tutors will be determined in 2020. Two teaching sets of slides will be distributed to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians.
4. Registrar workshops, slide sets and RCPA examination candidate support will continue
5. In-house teaching PowerPoint talks for distribution to laboratories are again planned.
6. A further PowerPoint talk covering advances in molecular science with respect to cervical cancer prevention, such as extended genotyping and methylation studies.
7. There will be an NCPTS contribution to the RCPA-NZ ASM in Auckland in August 2020
8. A workshop for histoscientists is planned to address issues of handling, orientating and cutting cervical specimens

NCPTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

NCPTS scholarships were not awarded in 2019 for 2020 courses and conferences as the NCPTS National Training Committee chose to hold a National Training Day in 2020 instead. An offer of \$500 scholarships to assist with costs for scientists/cytotechnicians who wish to attend the NZIMLS ASM in Auckland in August 2020 will be advertised in the early months of 2020.

NATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE (NTC)

The current NTC Committee members are:

Diane Kenwright (Chair), David Innes, Peter Bethwaite, Andrew Miller, Kathryn Payne, Amanda Charlton, Ursula Van Den Heever, Christine Hide, Meik Dilcher, Fahimeh Rahnama, Stadler Van Dyk, Helen Keeman

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

Administrative assistance: Melinda Paterson (NCPTS Administrator)

Thanks again to all who have contributed to the work of the NCPTS in 2019. We look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

We wish you a happy holiday season!

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