

Welcome to the NCPTS annual newsletter

On-line learning is the way of the future and in this newsletter we are keen to promote our website and the various ways that it can be of use to you. The NCPTS website www.ncpts.co.nz went live in May 2013 and is updated regularly. Information is provided about the NCPTS and matters of professional interest to the workforce groups we support, as well as details about NCPTS training programmes, educational material and talks given by speakers at NCPTS workshops.

There is open access to the top menu bar. This includes a calendar of NCPTS events, details about the NCPTS Training Team, the National Training Committee, the NCPTS scholarship programme, links to other professional organisations and contacts for the NCPTS. A log-in is required to access the education programmes for each specific sector group. Professional staff working in cervical cytology, gynaecologic histopathology and HPV testing in New Zealand laboratories, are eligible to obtain a log-on.

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If you don't already have a log-on or have forgotten what it is, please email the administrator

Pauline Ward at: ncpts@medlabsouth.co.nz

Website postings in 2014

1. A new Forum Board specifically for cytoscientists and cytotechnicians is accessed through the cytoscientists/cytotechnicians homepage sidebar. The Forum allows cytoscientists/cytotechnicians from around the country to post a question, comment or suggestion relating to cervical cytology and to respond to the postings of others. To facilitate open discussion and networking, **access to the Forum is restricted to cytoscientists and cytotechnicians** (and the NCPTS Training Team).
2. Talks given at NCPTS programmes at professional meetings such as the NZIMLS ASM and the RCPA-NZ ASM are posted where possible. The conferences are listed on the homepage sidebar. Check out the talk on "Pitfalls in Immunohistochemistry" given by Professor Dahlstrom at the NZIMLS ASM in Dunedin this year.



Pauline Ward
Website administrator

3. Books are now available on request from the NCPTS. The list of available titles is listed under "Library" and these may be borrowed from 1 February 2015.
4. The annual NCPTS Newsletter for molecular scientists reporting HPV testing in New Zealand is located in the "Molecular Scientists" menu on the homepage.
5. All NCPTS scholarship recipients provide a short report about their course/conference and these are posted on the website for the interest of all.
6. The first three of a series of education modules for anatomic pathology registrars are available in the registrars' section of the website. Pathologists also have access to these modules.

TRAINING INITIATIVES: 2014 REPORT

CYTOSCIENTISTS and CYTOTECHNICIANS

Australian Cytoscientist-led Workshops

Gwenda Lawrence, Cytology Manager at QML in Brisbane ran four workshops at SurePath laboratories in April. The workshops focussed on invasive cervical cancers, IUCD-related change and the differentiation of possible HSIL cases (ASC-H) from benign/reactive change.

New Zealand Cytoscientist-led Workshops

Christl Kirstein, the NCPTS ThinPrep cytoscientist led three workshops in the three ThinPrep laboratories in November and December. The same three topics were the focus of these workshops. An “unknown cases” quiz was a popular feature.



Gwenda Lawrence teaching cytoscientists about invasive cervical cancers

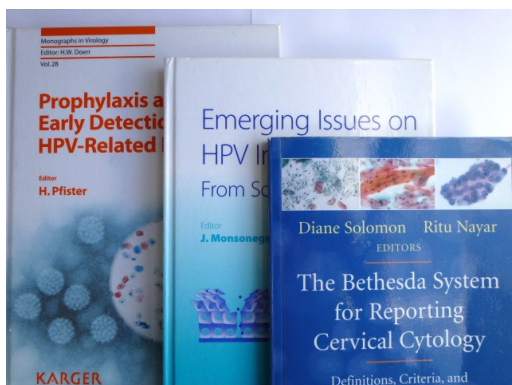
Two sets of glass slides of cases covering the three topics chosen for 2014 were circulated to each cytology laboratory, using ThinPrep or SurePath slides as appropriate for the laboratory site. The sets were devised by Christl Kirstein and Abed Kader, the two NCPTS cytoscientists. **Two powerpoint talks** developed to contribute to in-house cytology education programmes were also circulated to all cytology laboratories. These were a talk on “The role of HPV in the Pathogenesis of Cervical Cancer” developed by Christl Kirstein, and “Cervical Histopathology for Cytoscientists: Pre-invasive and Invasive lesions of the Cervix” by Drs Diane Kenwright and Margaret Sage.

CYTOPREPARATION STAFF

One teaching module was distributed in 2014. This discussed the important topic of the prevention of cross-contamination of LBC cytology vials with HPV in the laboratory, and was developed by Abed Kader.

VOCATIONAL REGISTRATION PROGRAMME IN CERVICAL CYTOLOGY (VRPCC)

A VRPCC Consultancy Group has been set up to oversee the further development work planned by the NCPTS Training Team. The 100-slide test documentation development was completed in 2014 and work continues on the glass slide sets which are used for the final three day screening test. The one candidate for 2014 successfully completed the programme in November.



NCPTS LIBRARY

The NCPTS has established a library of small postable books that will be available to borrow on request from 1 February 2015. The books are designed to complement the larger standard texts already available in laboratories. The list of available titles is posted on the NCPTS website under “Library” and includes books for all levels of experience. For experienced cytologists, “Cytopathology of the Glandular Lesions of the Female Genital Tract” Monographs in Clinical Cytology Vol 20 2011 Ed: M. Jimenz-Ayala, B. Jimenz-Ayala Portillo is recommended.

PATHOLOGISTS and ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY REGISTRARS

The **anatomic pathology registrar annual weekend workshops** were held in Auckland in March and in Christchurch in April. Thanks to Dr Diane Kenwright for providing teaching in cervical histopathology and to Dr Andrew Miller for assisting with SurePath cytology at multiheader sessions.

Three teaching sets of SurePath slides and three ThinPrep sets were compiled and distributed to all Anatomic Pathology registrars during the second half of the year. Thanks again to Andrew Miller, for compiling two of the SurePath sets.



Andrew Miller teaches registrars at the NCPTS Christchurch workshop

MOLECULAR SCIENTISTS

The 2014 newsletter for molecular scientists discussed the current use of HPV testing to manage women in New Zealand with cervical abnormalities identified by cytology or histology. References to the NCPTS scholarship programme, the NCPTS Library and the PCC (Preventing Cervical Cancer) 2015 conference in Melbourne in February 2015 were also included. Thanks to Fahimeh Rahnama for assistance in compiling the newsletter. A number of molecular scientists attended the NCPTS programme at the NZIMLS ASM in Dunedin in August, most as recipients of an NCPTS scholarship.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS



Professor Jane Dahlstrom and Dr Diane Kenwright at the NZIMLS ASM Dunedin 2014

The NCPTS ran a half-day workshop at the **NZIMLS Annual Scientific Meeting** in Dunedin in August. Papers and talks were presented by Professor Jane Dahlstrom (*Understanding Immunohistochemistry*), Dr Diane Kenwright (*Cervical Histopathology for Histoscientists*), Nadika Liyanarachchy (*Conference Report: AOGIN, Beijing 2014*), Fahimeh Rahnama (*Conference Report: 15th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy 2014*) and Ngaire Monk/Fahimeh Rahnama (*Preventing Cross-contamination of LBC vials with HPV*). Margaret Sage and Abed Kader ran a cytology quiz of ThinPrep and SurePath cytology cases. All talks can be viewed on the NCPTS website.

The NCPTS also contributed to the **RCPA-NZ Annual Scientific Meeting** in Hamilton in October with a session based around colposcopy. Dr Lois Eva (*Colposcopy: "what every histopathologist needs to know"*) and Dr Diane Kenwright (*Commonly encountered difficult decisions in cervical pathology*) gave talks and Dr Margaret Lovell-Smith and Dr Margaret Sage presented four ThinPrep cases involving discordancy of results at colposcopy.

TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS FOR 2015

Plans for 2015 for each workforce group were discussed at the National Training Committee annual meeting in November 2014 and will be available on the NCPTS website in January 2015. In brief:

Cytoscientists/Cytotechnicians.

- The Australian cytoscientist-led workshops will be held in the three ThinPrep laboratories. The 2015 topics will be postpartum smears, misdiagnosed endometrial lesions, and post lletz/cone appearances.
- NZ cytoscientist-led workshops addressing the same topics will be held in the four SurePath laboratories and will be taken by a senior cytoscientist from another SurePath laboratory, as in previous years.
- Slide sets for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians. Two SurePath and two ThinPrep sets will be circulated.

Cytopreparation staff. Three education modules for distribution to laboratories are planned.

Vocation Registration Programme in Cervical Cytology (VRPCC). Further programme development is planned, including a major revision of the VRPCC workbook which will be led by Abed Kader.

Anatomic Pathology Registrars. The annual workshops and teaching slide sets rotation programme will continue. Further education modules will be developed for the NCPTS website allowing more time for interactive sessions at workshops. Voting pads will be introduced in 2015 so that registrars can express opinions on slide images during workshop sessions.

Cytopathologists/Histopathologists. A contribution to the RCPA ASM focusing on SurePath cytologic diagnosis and histologic assessment of pre-neoplastic lesions is planned. Distribution of literature reviews is also proposed.

Molecular scientists. The next annual newsletter will be distributed towards the end of November 2015.

NCPTS 2014 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

NCPTS Scholarships are awarded annually to cover expenses for conferences and courses within Australasia and further afield internationally. Application information and Terms and Conditions are available on the NCPTS website. The recipients of NCPTS scholarships awarded in 2014 for 2015 courses and conferences are:

Jan Tew (Histoscientist)	Lorna Whyte (Cytoscientist)
Tausia Latu (Cytotechnician)	Amanda Bowden (Histoscientist)
Krish Pillay (Cytoscientist)	Amy Wakelin (Cytoscientist)

One **International scholarship** recipient will attend The Institute of Biomedical Sciences Science Congress in Birmingham in 2015. Five **Australasian scholarship** recipients will attend the following 2015 courses/conferences:

- The 7th National Histotechnology Conference in conjunction with the 9th Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology Congress in Brisbane.
- The Australian Society of Cytology Annual Business and Scientific meeting in Brisbane.

Additional scholarships were available to fund attendance at the **2014 NZIMLS ASM**. The recipients were:

Kim Brown	Charisse Guino-o	Jesse Bain
Christine Holdaway	Diane Luey	Diane Grimaldi
Fernalynn Tiongko	Julia Mayes	Reena Naidu

The Conference Calendar is available on the NCPTS website at www.ncpts.co.nz

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

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