

Introducing Dr WENDY MCBURNIE:

NCPTS REGISTRAR TRAINING COORDINATOR

An exciting new development for the NCPTS Training Team this year has been the appointment of Dr Wendy McBurnie into a newly created role, that of NCPTS Registrar Training Coordinator. Wendy started in this position in July 2021 and now coordinates all aspects of registrar training including the annual workshops and the registrar slide sets as well as providing support for RCPA examination candidates.

Wendy is a consultant pathologist at Canterbury Health Laboratories where she reports cervical histopathology and SurePath cytopathology. Hailing from Scotland, she completed her undergraduate medical degree in Dundee before moving to New Zealand. Her specialty training in Anatomic Pathology took place at Canterbury Health laboratories.

Wendy has already assisted the NCPTS as the Registrar representative on the NCPTS National Training Committee, when she was a senior registrar. She is looking forward to working with the registrars again next year and can be contacted directly at wendy.mcburnie@sclabs.co.nz

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CYTOSCIENTIST/CYTOTECHNICIAN WORKSHOPS FOR 2021

Another new venture this year has been the creation of the first online workshop for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians. Five different modules cover a range of topics including cytomorphology, self-sampling and cytology report recommendations. The workshop was released in early December 2021 and can be accessed on the NCPTS website at any time by participants. CPD points have been assigned by the NZIMLS. See Page 3 for further details.

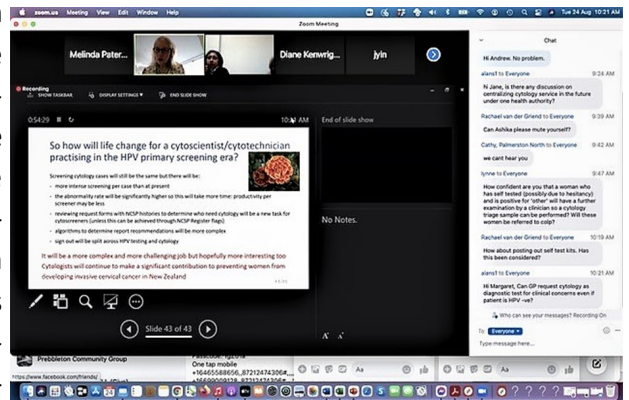
COVID-19

The impact of Covid-19 on changing work volumes and demands continues. We do thank our Auckland colleagues who have borne the brunt of the impact this year to benefit us all. We do appreciate that finding the time and mental energy for education is a lot more difficult currently and we particularly wish to thank the tutors and participants of our programmes this year. While the time and cost efficiencies of working more on-line will continue to serve us well post-pandemic, the added value of face-to-face contact for some teaching, particularly multiheader sessions, remains a theme in the feedback we are receiving. There are many uncertainties looming in 2022. Hopefully we will see less lockdown disruptions, a return to professional meetings in New Zealand, and more time to focus on our professional areas of expertise.

NATIONAL TRAINING DAY 2021

The online programme was hosted again on ZOOM. The morning cytology sessions were held on Tuesday August 24th but unfortunately the afternoon sessions with an HPV testing focus had to be postponed because both the speakers and the potential participants were too busy coping with the influx of COVID test samples.

The morning sessions were well received. Dr Jane O'Hallahan (Clinical Director, NSU) spoke of the changes coming to the NCSP with HPV primary screening, Grace Tan (senior cytoscientist manager at VCS in Melbourne) described her experience during the transition to HPV screening in Australia and what life is like practising as a cytoscientist there now. The NCPTS Training Team ran a digital quiz of unknown ThinPrep and SurePath cases and Margaret Sage went through the proposed changes to *NCSP Policies and Standards Section 5: Providing a Laboratory Service*, when HPV primary screening commences in New Zealand.



We are planning to deliver the afternoon HPV Testing related sessions in March/April 2022, COVID permitting. The speakers and talks are:

1. What will daily practice be like for molecular scientists working in HPV Testing in the HPV primary screening era? Dr Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh
2. Cepheid X-pert and Point of Care HPV testing: Dr Meik Dilcher
3. Extended genotyping update: Dr Richard Massey
4. Reporting self-collected samples for HPV Testing: what are the issues in the laboratory? Assoc/Prof David

NCPTS SLIDE SCAN PROJECT

Work on the collaborative project between the NCPTS and the RCPA to create 500 digital cervical cytology e-cases hosted on the RCPA website, is nearing completion. To date, 418 of the 500 cases have been scanned. Seventeen of the twenty-six batches of slides have been released on the RCPA website with the remainder in various stages of processing. Work will continue in 2022 to complete the project. Thanks to Gwenda Lawrence (Cytoscientist), SurePath pathologists, the RCPA and the RCPA QAP for assistance with funding, scanning and posting the finalised cases, and to Melinda Paterson for coordination and administrative assistance.

USING THE NCPTS SLIDE SCAN PROJECT CASES: a reminder about access....

The cases are hosted on the Sectra platform which 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 a work or home computer, iPad, tablet or mobile phone.

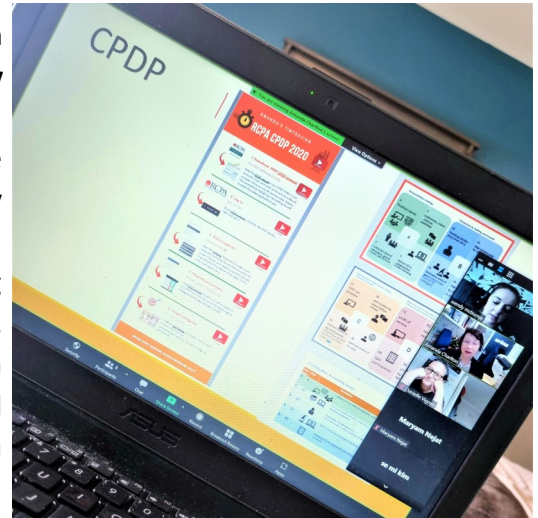
Pathologists and registrars with an RCPA website log-on already have access to the RCPA files of e-cases. Cytoscientists and cytotechnicians can access the cervical cytology e-cases at <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/eCases> using the following:

User ID: 33229

Password: 33229rcpa

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY REGISTRAR TRAINING IN 2021

First and second year registrars attended face-to-face workshops in Wellington in March and in Auckland in May. **Morphology workshops for senior pathology registrars** were held in Auckland and Christchurch at the end of January to accommodate those registrars who sat Part 1 in October 2020 and were repeated by Wendy in October, held on ZOOM using ThinPrep slides in Auckland and SurePath slides in Christchurch. Thanks to all contributing consultants: Diane Kenwright, Sadiq Al-Sakini and Amanda Charlton. Wendy also ran a Final year workshop in November: this is a workshop for registrars who have passed all their RCPA exams and are about to become consultants. We wish all pathology graduates a long productive and enjoyable career!



Sets of teaching slides in ThinPrep, SurePath and in cervical histopathology were again circulated to all pathology registrar training sites and a **digital mock exam sets** were provided in both ThinPrep and SurePath as practice for examination candidate registrars before the RCPA Cytology examination in June. Thanks again to Diane Kenwright and Peter Bethwaite for supplying the cervical histopathology cases.

CYTOSCIENTISTS/CYTOTECHNICIANS

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.

An ONLINE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP for CYTOSCIENTISTS and CYTOTECHNICIANS

As it has been impossible to bring an external tutor to New Zealand this year, the NCPTS Training Team undertook to develop an online workshop for cytoscientists and cytotechnicians instead. The 3-hour workshop has five modules as follows:

Module 1: 10 unknown SurePath and 10 unknown ThinPrep digital eCases. Clinical details and a link to slide images are provided. Entering an answer enables access to the answer, a brief discussion of the morphology, follow-up details and a brief comment.

Module 2: Interesting Case Studies. Two SurePath and two ThinPrep cases are discussed in more depth.

Module 3: Talk about using self-sampling for HPV testing. A PowerPoint talk with voice over discusses the evidence for offering self-sampling in the HPV screening era, the implications for the NCSP and for laboratories

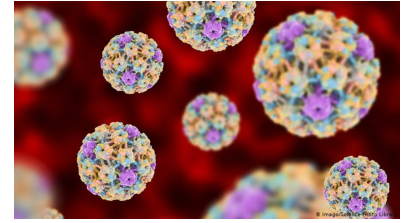
Module 4: Journal-based learning. A link is provided to a recent Journal article discussing the new classification of cervical squamous cell carcinoma in histology. The participant reads it and answers a series of questions.

Module 5: Daily Decisions in Cytology. A multiple choice quiz addresses difficult clinical situations where cytologists make decisions regarding report recommendations or whether HPV test requests should be accepted for processing. Some questions also ask about screening advice for sample takers.

The workshop should be available on the NCPTS website from mid-December under *Cytoscientist/cytotechnician training* and accessed at the participants convenience through the usual website log-in. Please email Melinda Paterson at NCPTS@medlabsoith.co.nz if you have trouble with access. The 3-hour workshop has been assigned 6 CPD Points by the NZIMLS— a certificate will be issued on completion.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS AND NCPTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The RCPA-NZ ASM and the NZIMLS ASM were both cancelled again in 2020. No NCPTS scholarships were awarded because of the NZIMLS conference cancellation and the lack of international travel this year. The situation will be reviewed in 2021 as the international COVID situation continues to evolve. Laboratories will be notified when the NCPTS Scholarship programme recommences.



TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS for 2022

1. The postponed afternoon sessions from the 2021 National Training Day will take place in March/April 2022. The sessions will be posted on line to allow for further possible Covid disruptions.
2. There will be another National Training Day in 2022. The programme will be decided in May 2022.
3. A programme of in-house teaching with Professor David Wilbur (Boston) is proposed for November 2022, subject to immigration requirements allowing him to visit New Zealand.
4. Two teaching sets of slides will be distributed to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians.
5. Registrar workshops, slide sets and RCPA examination candidate support will continue.
6. The NCPTS Slide Scan Project will finally be completed in 2022.
7. The NCPTS will contribute to the RCPA-NZ ASM assuming this goes ahead.

NATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE (NTC)

The current NTC committee members are:

Diane Kenwright (Chair), Peter Bethwaite (RCPA representative), Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh (NZIMLS representative), Andrew Miller, Kathryn Payne, Amanda Charlton, Ursula Van Den Heever, Christine Hide, Meik Dilcher, Andrew McHutchison, Tanya Fulton, Suneeth Mathew (Registrar representative)

Ex officio members: Margaret Sage, Wendy McBurnie, Christl Kirstein, Ashika Bissoon (NCPTS Training Team)

Administrative assistance: Melinda Paterson (NCPTS Administrator)

EXISTING VACANCY

There is currently one vacancy on the NTC. If you are a cytoscientist reporting using ThinPrep and would like to join our lively active committee to help plan NCPTS training events, please contact us at either of the email addresses below. The commitment isn't onerous - we will welcome your interest!

Thanks again to all who have contributed to the work of the NCPTS in 2021. Take good care, stay safe and stay well! We wish you all a well-earned and refreshing break over summer.

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