

At the end of another busy year, we look back with gratitude to all who have contributed and participated in NCPTS programmes in the last 12 months. Face-to-face training and meetings have become possible again, bringing the benefits of seeing each other in person. On the flip side, the development and use of more online training has been a positive consequence of COVID and will remain a strong focus for the NCPTS.

### Professor David Wilbur Cytology Workshops 2022

After several years attempting to bring Professor Wilbur from Boston to New Zealand in person, we were finally able to do so in November. We are very grateful for the excellent teaching workshop series he ran throughout the country, sharing his advice and expertise from years of experience as an enthusiastic and internationally respected cervical cytomorphologist. While intended primarily for cytoscientists/cytotechnicians, many cytopathologists and registrars joined the workshops too - the staff at Canterbury Health Laboratories feature in the photos (right). The workshops included the opportunity to discuss cases where the outcome was unknown, using a mix of slides supplied by David and others sourced from New Zealand. This provided a rare opportunity to watch an expert work through the diagnostic possibilities to arrive at an answer, and we are grateful to David for his generosity in being prepared to work with us in this way. I also wish to thank the pathologists who hosted David in various locations around the country, to make his time here a more personal experience. I trust these workshops were a worthwhile and memorable experience for all concerned.

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### NCPTS Cytoscientist/Cytotechnician Online Learning Modules

An online 3-hour workshop for cytoscientists and cytotechnicians developed by the NCPTS Training Team was released on the NCPTS website in March, in the *Cytoscientist/cytotechnician training* section. 6 CPD Points have been assigned by the NZIMLS: a certificate is issued on completion. Please contact Melinda Paterson if you need a log-on to access the website.

Self-sampling for HPV testing:  
The evidence that it works and  
how will it be introduced in New  
Zealand

Margaret Sage  
NCPTS  
Nov 2021

Please make sure your speakers are turned on

There are five modules:

- Module 1. Unknowns quiz of SurePath/ThinPrep digital eCases (10 of each)
- Module 2. Case Study discussions: SurePath and ThinPrep cases (2 of each)
- Module 3. PowerPoint talk: Using self-sampling for HPV testing.
- Module 4. Journal article review: Updated histologic classification of cervical SCC
- Module 5. Daily Decisions in Cytology: formulating report recommendations

## NATIONAL TRAINING DAYS 2022

**May:** A half-day workshop of HPV-related talks was held on ZOOM, displaced from August 2021 because of the Delta COVID outbreak. Four speakers provided excellent talks, which were all of high interest. Thanks particularly to our invited speaker from Melbourne, Associate Professor David Hawkes (*Reporting self-collected samples for HPV testing: what are the issues in the laboratory?*) as well as Rebecca Lucas-Roxburgh (*What will daily practice be like for those working in HPV Testing in the HPV primary screening era?*), Dr Richard Massey (*Extended genotyping update*) and Meik Dilcher (*Cepheid Xpert and point of care HPV Testing*).



**August:** The 2022 National Training Day held in the Wellington Airport Conference rooms celebrated the era of our successful cervical cytology-based screening programme as well as considering the changes coming to the NCSP with HPV primary screening in 2023. Dr Harold Neal did the honours by cutting the Celebrating Cytology cake, in recognition of his contribution to cytology.

Many thanks to the many speakers including those from the NCSP and the HPV Project team who spoke of plans for the HPV primary screening programme, and to Sandra Corbett from the NCSP Advisory and Action Group for reminding us of the human face of those who develop cervical cancer. Cytology will play a key role in the new programme to triage those who are HPV positive into high-risk individuals requiring colposcopy and lower-risk individuals who can be safely followed by repeat testing.



We really enjoyed seeing each other again after a long absence of face-to-face meetings!

## NCPTS SLIDE SCAN PROJECT

The collaborative project between the NCPTS and the RCPA to create 500 digital cervical cytology e-cases is nearing completion. All 250 ThinPrep cases and 208/250 SurePath cases are available for viewing on the RCPA website. Thanks to all involved: Gwenda Lawrence (Cytoscientist), SurePath pathologists, the RCPA QAP (scanning), the RCPA (funding and hosting the finalised cases), and Melinda Paterson (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 (no software to download or install, and minimal lag-time). Slides can be viewed from any internet-connected device: work/home computer, iPad, tablet or mobile phone.

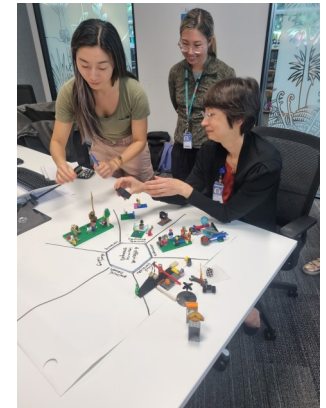
Pathologists and registrars with an RCPA website log-on already have access to the RCPA files of e-cases. Cytoscientists and cytotechnicians can access the cervical cytology e-cases at <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/eCases> using the following: User ID: 33229 Password: 33229rcpa

## ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY REGISTRAR TRAINING IN 2022

Our junior registrars (Years 1-2) attended an online workshop in March. Morphology workshops for senior pathology registrars were held via Zoom in October using SurePath slides and in person in December using ThinPrep slides. Thank you so much to all our contributing consultants: Diane Kenwright, Sadiq Al-Sakini and Amanda Charlton. Wendy is also arranging a final year workshop for the final year registrars/new graduates who have passed all their RCPA exams and are about to become consultants. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss the finer details of being a practicing pathologist and celebrate everyone's success. We wish all pathology graduates a long productive and enjoyable career!

Sets of teaching slides in ThinPrep, SurePath and cervical histopathology were again circulated to all pathology registrar training sites and 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 Kathryn Payne for supplying the cervical histopathology cases.

Next year we will see some changes in training. We are planning to continue our usual programmes, and also trial an additional opt-in slide set teaching series for registrars training at sites without regular access to gynae cytology.



## CYTOSCIENTISTS/CYTOTECHNICIANS

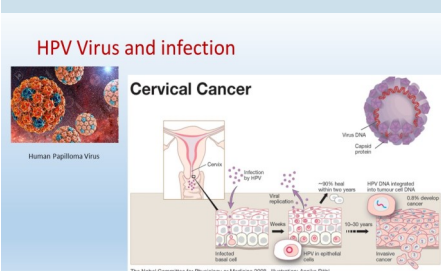
Two teaching sets of glass slides were circulated to cytoscientists/cytotechnicians at each cytology laboratory, using ThinPrep or SurePath slides. The sets were compiled by Christl Kirstein (ThinPrep sets) and Ashika Bissoon (SurePath sets). Each set comprised a mix of interesting and difficult cases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

## VOCATIONAL REGISTRATION PROGRAMME in CERVICAL CYTOLOGY (VRPCC)

The VRPCC is a training programme administered by the NCPTS to prepare cytoscientists entering cytology for the first time for the task of identifying and grading atypical/abnormal cells in LBC cervical cytology. It is composed of modules, both theoretical as well as practical, ranging from benign through to the various invasive cancers that present in the female genital tract. Each module ends with an assignment and practical screening test. To complete the programme, students must pass a 100-slide screening test over 3 days, in order to be signed off as competent to practice cervical cytology. Congratulations to Reem Mustafa for passing the VRPCC this year.

## CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Tanya Fulton (Histoscientist, LabPLUS) spoke at the NZIMLS ASM in August about changes coming to histopathology when the HPV primary screening programme commences in 2023. Drs Howard Clentworth and Margaret Sage updated the pathologists at the RCPA ASM in September about the new Clinical Practice Guidelines for 2023 and the implications of HPV primary screening for histopathologists.



## USING HIGH-RISK HPV TESTING, CERVICAL CYTOLOGY AND CERVICAL HISTOLOGY FOR CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION

A Power-Point talk developed by Melinda Paterson and Margaret Sage was released in September, providing an overview of the way hrHPV Testing, cervical cytology and cervical histology are used together to identify and manage cervical lesions that could lead to cervical cancer if untreated. It identifies why each type of test is used at a particular time in the screening and management pathway. The talk is designed for staff new to laboratory testing and for those who work in one particular area and need to understand how their work fits into the diagnosis and management of cervical lesions across the laboratory.

## NCPTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Fewer conferences have been available recently, but four scientists/cytotechnicians were able to attend two events in 2022. Two histoscientists received NCPTS scholarships to attend the Australian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) meeting in Sydney in June. Lorna Laquindanum (NorthShore Hospital) attended in person and Gabriella Saleh (Medlab Central) attended virtually. Janet Trusler (Pathlab cytoscientist) and Cathy Rowberry (Medlab Central cytotechnician) were funded to attend an IAC cytology tutorial virtually in April. Scholarship funding was also used to purchase new textbooks for the five laboratories reporting cervical cytology. The NCPTS is currently offering 2-3 international scholarships (\$8000) for senior scientists to attend the International Papillomavirus Conference (IPVC2023) in Washington DC in April 2023. Please contact Melinda Paterson at the NCPTS office with an expression of interest if you are considering applying.

## TRAINING INITIATIVES: PLANS for 2023

NCPTS training will address a different range of training needs next year as the sector prepares for HPV primary screening. Examples of issues identified by the National Training Committee where training will be required include:

**Cytoscientists:** Using Bethesda 2014 and particularly the new recommendation codes when reporting, checking that the correct tests have been ordered, reading new SNOMED-CT codes for histology, using the new NCSP Register

**Molecular scientists:** understanding the new screening algorithms, adjusting workflow and sorting out who has sign-out authority for different reports, managing cross-contamination risks, processing vaginal swab samples

**Pathologists:** Using Bethesda 2014 and the new recommendation codes, using SNOMED-CT for histology reporting, understanding the new Clinical Practice Guidelines

**Registrars:** Additional training for registrars working in laboratories where cervical cytology is not reported

## 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)*



Thanks again to all who have contributed to the work of the NCPTS in 2022. Take good care, stay safe and stay well! We wish you all a well-earned and refreshing break over summer.

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