



1. British association for ophthalmic pathology (BAOP).

The 33rd BAOP meeting was hosted by Dr Caroline Thaug (Institute of Ophthalmology) and took place on the 21st and 22nd March 2014 at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Over 40 delegates attended. There were many high quality case report presentations from BAOP members and international delegates from Ireland, Holland, Canada and Australia. Ophthalmology and histopathology trainees presented cases for the Jean Campbell prize cup, which was awarded to a successful histopathology trainee, Dr Simon Paine for a presentation titled ' a unique developmental congenital neuroepithelial cyst of the orbit'. The 34th BAOP meeting will be in Glasgow, hosted by Dr Fiona Roberts. Dr Caroline Thaug was elected the new secretary of BAOP, taking over from Dr Caroline Graham.

2. International meetings.

UK ophthalmic pathologists have represented the specialty at various international ophthalmology and ophthalmic pathology meetings, including: International Symposium of Ophthalmology November 2013, Guangzhou, China, World ophthalmic congress Tokyo March/April 2014 (where there was an International Society of Ophthalmic Pathology session), European Ophthalmic Pathology Society meeting Coimbra Portugal June 2014, European Society of Pathology meeting in London September 2014, EVER meeting France October 2014, APGC-ISOHK meeting in Hong Kong 2014 (ISOP session) and the Eastern Ophthalmic Pathology Society meeting, Baltimore USA November 2014.

3. Advanced practitioners in ophthalmic pathology

Mr Adam Meeney (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust) and Mr Simon Biddolph (Royal Liverpool University Hospital) passed the jointly ratified IBMS/RCPPath diploma in ophthalmic pathology in November 2013 and are in successful fulltime employment at their respective Trusts, as advanced practitioners in ophthalmic pathology.

4. Cancer datasets and tissue pathways

The uveal melanoma and retinoblastoma datasets have been revised and both are at the consultation phase with RCPPath members.



The tissue pathway for non-neoplastic ophthalmic pathology specimens has been written Dr Luciane Irion and Dr Hardeep Singh Mudhar. The College will be sending it out for consultation soon.

5. National Specialist Ophthalmic Pathology Service (NSOPS).

NSOPS comprises ophthalmic histopathology laboratories in Liverpool (Prof SE Coupland and Dr Luciane Irion), Sheffield (Dr Hardeep Singh Mudhar), Manchester (Dr Luciane Irion and Dr Richard Bonshek) and London (Prof Phil Luthert, Dr Caroline Thaug and Dr Sepideh Amin).

The group has met on 2 occasions since November 2013 with the next meeting scheduled for 25th November 2014.

The following issues have been discussed and actioned. Some issues are still pending

- A distinction has been made between a board meeting and the November annual meeting, with regards to minimum attendance.
- The president of the BAOP is to be kept closely informed by the output from the annual NSOPS meetings.
- CRG representation at the NSOPS meetings remain unresolved.
- A generic NSOPS pathology request form has been agreed and will be placed on the new eye path website for external users of the service.
- A generic NSOPS eye pathology user survey has been drawn up for external service user feedback, in line with RCPATH user survey templates.
- The user manual for NSOPS is still under revision
- The ophthalmic pathology macro/micro matrix has been ratified by the college. Some of the ophthalmic pathology labs have commenced with this as pilots.
- The circulation of challenging cases between the 4 labs has gone through 4 successful rounds.
- A successful audit of uveal melanoma reporting compliance with the RCPATH uveal melanoma dataset has been completed by the 4 labs.
- The 4 labs have completed a consensus criteria discussion on the diagnosis of ocular sebaceous carcinoma.
- RCPATH KPIs state that 90% of diagnostic biopsies should be reported within 7 calendar days, and 90% of Excisional biopsies should be reported within 10 calendar days. It was agreed that we would aim for these targets, however we would measure from the date of receipt, as opposed to date of request. We would run like this for one full year and then review at the Annual Meeting in November 2015 to assess effectiveness. This has been discussed with Dr Tim Helliwell.
- There are on-going issues with degrees of familiarity of the new local commissioners with specialist service and their level of engagement with the NSOPS labs, coupled with the pressures to make savings despite workloads increasing in the NSOPS laboratories. These critical issues will be raised at the Nov 25th national meeting.

6. EQA scheme

There are 34 participants. This is running successfully and is organized by Dr Luciane Irion, Dr Hardeep Singh Mudhar and Dr Caroline Graham. Participants can submit responses electronically and receive a certificate of participation and a full certificate with scores after the discussion of the

cases at the annual BAOP meeting. Participants are charged £75 per circulation with 2 circulations per year. There are now 10 scoring cases and 2 educational cases. Dr Luciane Irion has submitted the annual report about this scheme to the RCPATH committee for interpretive EQA NQAAP (national quality assurance advisory panel).

7. Educational events

A new meeting called EyePath Fest is at its planning phase and is scheduled for summer 2016. The principal focus will be ophthalmic pathology and will deliver a comprehensive review of the diagnostic approach, differential diagnosis and molecular developments in ophthalmic pathology, delivered by ophthalmic pathologists from around the world. There will be a strong focus on networking and inspiring the ophthalmic pathologists of tomorrow, through incentivising trainees to compete for oral presentation prizes. There will be didactic lectures on 'my diagnostic approach to...' by expert ophthalmic pathologists, around 40 case report slots, 10 research talk slots, 9 trainee presentation slots, 3 plenary lectures delivered by international renowned ophthalmologists and ophthalmic pathologists, an eye path quiz, trainee presentation prizes and social events.

8. EyePath UK website

£11400 has been raised to re-design the EyePath UK website to transform it into an international standard website for ophthalmic pathology, CPD, documentation, NSOPS service user information, meetings, discussion forum etc. Dr HS Mudhar is working closely with Diva Creative Sheffield to complete the project by January 2015.

9. Manpower in ophthalmic pathology.

Despite increases in workloads in the NSOPS labs, funding has been gradually decreasing over the last 2 years in line with NHS savings. This will pose a challenge to recruiting new consultants into ophthalmic pathology and will be subject to discussion at the annual NSOPS meeting on 25/11/14 with the national medical director of highly specialized services.

Some members of BAOP will be retiring from Leicester and Nottingham in the near future.

The number of consultants providing a forensic ophthalmic pathology is reaching a critical low point and despite several email discussions with RCPATH the issue still remains unresolved. The college needs to provide strong facilitation in this urgent matter.

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