

# Pathology Summer School for Medical Students

## 2017 Evaluation Report



The Royal College of Pathologists  
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Pathological Society



Understanding  
disease



**BNS**  
British Neuropathological Society



British Society for  
**Haematology**  
Listening • Learning • Leading

**BIAM**  
British Infection Association



The Association  
of Clinical Pathologists

## Pathology Summer School 2017 Evaluation Report

The fourth annual Pathology Summer School was held on 18–19 August 2017 at Guy's Hospital, London. It was funded by the following organisations:

- The Royal College of Pathologists
- The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland
- The British Division of the International Academy of Pathology
- The Association of Clinical Pathologists
- The British Infection Association
- The British Society for Haematology
- The British Neuropathological Society.

The RCPATH provided administrative support and staffing for the event. Funding covered the cost of room hire, catering, accommodation, quiz prizes and speaker expenses. A donation was also made to the Gordon Museum.

77 applications were received from students at 32 UK medical schools. Applicants were asked to write a 250-word statement about why they would like to attend. All students who applied were accommodated. Certificates of attendance were provided after the event.

The programme consisted of an introductory lecture, six small group breakout sessions and three lectures, spread over two days. There was an informal buffet and quiz on the Friday evening.

Students at previous Summer Schools were asked for feedback about how the event could be improved.

Students asked for:	What we did:
More opportunity to learn from the pots in the Gordon Museum	Allocated every student a pots breakout session
More time to explore the Gordon Museum	Allocated each student a free breakout session
Fewer lectures	Reduced the number of lectures
More breakout sessions	Increased the time spent in breakout sessions
Time to ask questions after breakout sessions and time to move from one session to the next	Extended breakout sessions to one hour to allow time for questions and moving to next session
Lectures to be pitched appropriately for students	Invited only the top scoring lecturers from previous events to speak this year

### Breakout sessions

Each student was asked to nominate three breakout sessions in advance.

Each student had five breakout sessions and one free session to explore the Gordon Museum. Breakout sessions were offered on the following topics:

- histopathology
- molecular pathology
- haematology
- clinical biochemistry
- immunology
- death investigation
- paediatric pathology
- neuropathology
- leadership
- public engagement.

Each student was asked to complete an evaluation card at the end of each breakout session, giving a score from 1 (not useful) to 5 (very useful). There was also space for free text comments. Selected comments are below.

**Haematology (Dr Andrew McGregor and Dr Marion Wood)**

- Liked the demo of the bone marrow aspiration
- Very good. Perfect balance of day-to-day work
- Very good practical session. Wish it was longer!

**Molecular pathology (Prof Phil Quirke)**

- Interesting to consider the implications of emerging technologies
- Very interesting, wide range of topics covered
- Good overview, thanks.

**Molecular pathology (Prof Mary Leader)**

- Very engaging, very passionate for pathology
- Fascinating, such a passionate speaker, clearly loves her job
- Very interesting topic, very well explained.

**Immunology (Prof Mohammad Ibrahim)**

- Detailed and informative
- Good overview of training programmes
- Increased my interest in immunology.

**Leadership (Dr Bridget Wilkins)**

- Interesting session, found out about different leadership styles and myself
- Really fun and interactive
- Insightful, best session of the Summer School.

**Microbiology (Dr Caoimhe Nic Foghartaigh)**

- Good presenter, very passionate
- Pitched at a great level to suit med student. Enthusiastic
- Interactive, very passionate, definitely bring this presenter back next year.

**Public engagement (Navin Nagesh and Bogdan Chiva)**

- Very interesting to hear how medical students get involved
- Inspirational talk
- Very inspirational, well-structured talk.

**Clinical Biochemistry (Dr Teresa Earl and Dr Kate Earp)**

- Case study very useful. Interesting finding out about training
- Good content in presentation, interesting case study
- Nice having mix of trainee/consultant. Interactive and interesting session.

**Histopathology (Dr Rachel Bowden)**

- Very interesting introduction to the speciality, some good tips on training!
- Really good balance between interactive case studies and speciality info
- Extremely informative on life as a histopathologist. Good info on training.

**Neuropathology (Dr Mark Fabian)**

- Presenter was great, answered questions well and gave good career advice
- Great balance between practical job requirements and cases
- Best session, bring Mark back next year!!!

**Paediatric pathology (Ciaran Hutchinson)**

- Very good session. Great cases that engaged the group
- Useful to consider the training pathways and talk through the typical day

- Very interesting. Enjoyed the group discussion of case studies.

### **Death and its investigation (Dr Mike Osborn)**

- Really liked the use of the interesting specimens and how they related to diseases
- Very interesting choice of specimens. Enjoyed the backstories and discussions
- Really liked how the session was set up sitting round the pots. Speaker was very engaging, made you feel comfortable.

### **Pots (Dr Matthew Clarke and Dr Katie Allen)**

- So interesting and engaging, I am already considering histopathology as a career
- Best session!!!! Samples are incredible. Next time I'm in London I'll spend all day here
- Very, very engaging tutor. Useful session was a good range of specimens 10/10.

### **Summary feedback**

At the end of the Summer School students were asked to vote using hand-held voting machines:

<b>Please rate:</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Organisation of the event	0	0	0	13 (25%)	40 (75%)
Accommodation	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	13 (26%)	24 (48%)	8 (16%)
Catering	0	0	7 (13%)	27 (52%)	18 (35%)
Please rate the Summer School as a whole	0	0	0	16 (29%)	39 (71%)

<b>Please rate:</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Introduction to pathology (Dr Suzy Lishman)	1 (2%)	0	2 (4%)	25 (46%)	26 (48%)
Research (Prof Phil Quirke)	1 (2%)	0	7 (13%)	26 (50%)	18 (35%)
Imaging PMs (Prof Ian Roberts)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	10 (18%)	25 (45%)	18 (32%)
Infectious diseases (Prof Sebastian Lucas)	0	0	9 (16%)	10 (18%)	37 (66%)

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
The Summer School helped clarify my career intentions	0	6 (11%)	34 (63%)	14 (26%)
I am more likely to pursue a career in pathology as a consequence of attending the Summer School	0	5 (9%)	32 (59%)	17 (31%)
Would you recommend the Summer School to a fellow student/friend?	0	2 (4%)	11 (20%)	41 (76%)

### **Post-event feedback**

An email with a link to a short online questionnaire was circulated to all attendees. Please see below for selected comments.

### **What were the highlights of the Summer School for you? What did you enjoy the most and why?**

One of the highlights for me was simply being able to speak to so many professionals who are passionate about their career.

Getting an insight into pathology as a career; meeting other medical students and the quiz/dinner! I really enjoyed the pots session as I was able to link my studies to seeing specimens. Also really liked the case studies as they were very relevant as future clinicians!

The haematology session was really good – a mixture of case-based learning about diagnostics and de-mystifying the practicalities of bone marrow biopsy.

The Gordon Museum was fascinating and an inspiring environment to speak to pathologists in. The breakout sessions were very useful, and many of them involved cases, which I found very enjoyable.

Breakout sessions were amazing. Every speaker had their own way of talking to us which made it fun and interesting. Greatly enjoyed the quiz.

Pots – an outstanding private collection of real examples of disease. By themselves they are a curiosity but they were truly 'brought to life' by the budding trainee pathologists.

Getting to see the museum, especially the pots session. The dinner and quiz. The death and its investigations breakout session.

Opportunity to network, mingle with dinner and drinks, Friday night quiz.

Explanation of the pots with Katie. The Friday evening quiz. The passion

demonstrated by all of the pathologists and their enthusiasm towards engaging young students in their career.

The dinner, quiz, meeting keen future colleagues, hearing from specialists about their specialties.

Two big highlights. Pots session, which was very interactive and enthusiastically taught. The dinner, which was delicious, with good entertainment – thanks!

I enjoyed the pots sessions with Dr Katie Allen – she was very enthusiastic and we learned a lot! The venues are great. Dr Suzy Lishman is also very approachable and enthusiastic.

The pots session was brilliant, I know that wasn't the point of the Summer School but I really enjoyed the teaching. My other highlight was the CT-PM lecture because it was a subject that I hadn't encountered before and was presented very well.

Finding out more about career options and opportunities as there was a lot I didn't know. Loved spending time in the Gordon Museum, it was fascinating. It was fantastic to meet so many pathologists and hear all about their work and also meet other students with similar interests.

Meeting enthusiastic trainees from a range of specialties.

I found the pots really fascinating so I found that session and the chance to look around them in the free session very enjoyable. I found the quiz really fun and I enjoyed having something more lighthearted in the evening after the intensity of the first day.

Pots sessions – they were really interesting, informative, and well run, really good speakers. Haematology breakout was really interactive! The dinner and quiz- really appreciative of the fact buffet and alcohol was provided with the entertainment of the quiz, thought it was really good to get to know the other students and academics. The HIV-cellular pathology talk was really good.

The interactive breakout sessions especially haematology were great. The quiz and dinner was also a nice way to end the day.

### **What would you like to see more of?**

I would have liked to see more information about the training pathways for a career in pathology. I also thoroughly enjoyed the pots sessions and would have enjoyed more time discussing the weird and wonderful specimens!

The Summer School! It was difficult to choose between the breakout sessions, and I would have like to be able to attend more of them. Would it be possible to make the day longer?

Guided pots sessions – looking at the pots in free time is interesting but overwhelming as there are so many. Having a guide made a huge difference



and every pot became a fascinating case study. I would have been delighted to have two or three pots sessions. They really are a marvellous teaching aid.

A chance to speak to all of the pathologists individually. Explanation of what their job involves on a day-to-day basis

Talks by trainees/consultants/professors on why they chose pathology and how they got to where they are today.

I would have liked more free time to explore the Gordon Museum. It would also be nice to have more breakout sessions because we only got to hear about a handful of the specialties in depth.

I would like to see us being quizzed more, making us think on our feet.

### **What didn't you enjoy so much and why?**

Some of the sessions were quite career focused, especially for a 1st year student.

Some of the sessions had different emphasis – e.g. some made the training routes and daily life clear, whereas others were more based on going through cases, or taking a broad view of the field and future directions. Sometimes there wasn't much time for questions at the end, so I think it would be useful if each speaker had included something quick about the training entry, and daily activities even if it wasn't what they wanted the main thrust of their talk to be.

Free time – I thought the lunch hour was enough free time personally. If the work sessions are led by enthusiastic doctors then they don't feel tiring. I would rather chuck in another presentation or pot session - it's only for two days!

Accommodation wasn't the best quality, but it was only one night so not really a big deal.

I found some of the breakout sessions quite dull due to a high proportion of information relating to the training program for the particular specialty.

I would have liked to have been able to attend the haematology sessions on both Friday and Saturday as I noticed that they were run by different people and I am very interested in training in Haematology.

The lectures at the end and start of the days were interesting, but should be made shorter (25 mins?).

A few of us thought it would have helped our attention spans on the Friday afternoon if one of the two Friday PM lectures could have been moved to Saturday morning before the breakout sessions (though I appreciate it might be more difficult to get hold of speakers on the weekend).



### **What could we do to improve the Summer School next year?**

Honestly I thought that the weekend was fantastic, I can't think of anything that needed improvement.

Lengthen the break between the last Friday session and the dinner/quiz. Spread the event fully/evenly across Friday and Saturday.

If possible, squeeze more in! In terms of gaining an insight into more specialties. I think the mixture of lectures and breakout sessions was good, but if more breakout sessions could be fitted around the rest of the timetable (e.g. between the end of the day as is and the dinner) that could be useful.

I would also have loved the chance to examine some cells through a microscope as I have never had the chance to do that at my medical school.

Everything was really great and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

My suggestion for improving the Summer School would be to clearly communicate to the speakers as to what is expected of them. By the end of a good talk, we should understand what it means to be a Pathologist and why it is an important and interesting specialty. Your best speakers achieved this aim.

Make the Saturday a full day with more breakout sessions and pots.

Prior explanation of what each discipline/session would be about. Hand outs from each discipline about their specialty and what they do on a day-to-day basis.

I think you *\*could\** consider splitting by medical year groups so the level of content could be targeted to the knowledge of the groups in the breakout sessions. In exchange you could give people less choice of which breakout sessions they attend, so it is still manageable.

I would like to have done a couple more of the breakout sessions, however the ones that I participated in were great and I appreciate that the Summer School was shortened in response to previous feedback.

Nothing!! I thought it was great – thank you very much.

Increase the interactivensess of certain sessions and greater use of pots.

Have more information on where to go next from here.

### **Do you have any other comments about the Summer School?**

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Pathology Summer School, it was a great opportunity and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in putting it together. I only hope I can return again!

Very enjoyable! Staff were very hospitable and it was a privilege to meet such

talented doctors. Would definitely recommend.

It was a really valuable experience for me. I left feeling enthused with pathology, and with a much better awareness of the breadth of sub-specialties that exist.

Just thank you so much for such a wonderful opportunity.

Thank you for the huge effort put in by staff to make the Summer School a success. As a result I will consider pathology as a career choice.

10/10 would definitely recommend.

It was very enjoyable. The length of lectures and breakout sessions was just right and the content and delivery were excellent.

It was thoroughly enjoyable and I would love to hear about future events. Thank you for the excellent organisation, which enabled the weekend to run smoothly and to all of the pathologists, whom evidently love what they do!

Well organised and led by a committed team. Thank you.

Really enjoyed it, thanks! Liked the use of voting pads.

I loved the cases discussed in each breakout session. Overall, I had a great couple of days, I was really impressed that the course was run so well and to such a high standard. As a student on a budget, I am very grateful that all costs were covered.

Great Summer School – good atmosphere, amazing organisation and great learning opportunities.

I just want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a lot, so thank you!

Only thank you so so much, I had a very inspiring weekend! :)

Accommodation and food was great, and really enjoyed learning more about pathology!

Thank you very much for organising! It was a very enjoyable experience from start to finish, and I've already highly recommended it to my peers in medical school for next year.

### **Summer School Reviews**

Students were given the opportunity to submit a 500-word review of the Summer School for publication. These have been distributed between the sponsoring organisations.

A few highlights from the publications are below:

The highlight of the Summer School 'pots' session. This was held in the Gordon museum and provided the opportunity to have a closer look at the pathological specimens. I was amazed by the intricacies of each organ and the vulnerability they face during disease.

The evening of the first day involved the all famous Pathology quiz – it was served with plenty of food, laughter and a fantastic view of London!

The Pathology Summer School has really widened my view of the field and I am now keen to explore further when I return to medical school.

I attended The Pathology Summer School 2017 expecting pathology to be a yawn-fest, but I promise you in the given 48 hours I did not yawn once! It opened up a whole new career path for me which I had never even considered before.

Overall the Summer School taught me how fundamental pathology is to patient care and I realised no matter in what branch of medicine, pathology underpins every single investigation you order for your patient to explaining their underlying disease.

I left for my train home feeling informed and enthused about a career in pathology, and very grateful for the opportunity offered by all the staff involved and the financial donors of the event. I would highly recommend the Summer School to any student considering pathology, it was fun, engaging and provided invaluable career advice and information on an amazing specialty that many students often know far too little about.

The two days were well organised and I was extremely impressed with the high quality of the breakout sessions and lectures. Personally, I thought the pots session was my favourite. My group and I continued to chat about how interesting every specimen was afterwards.

I was highly impressed and touched by the generosity of the Colleges funding the course, as we were able to have free accommodation and food throughout both days. Overall I thought the course was excellent and it has inspired me to really consider a career in pathology. I am sincerely thankful for the effort everyone made to make it a successful two days and I have already encouraged my friends to apply next year.

Whether you're set on being a pathologist or you just want to learn more about what a career as a pathologist could offer, this Summer School caters for all. The pathology Summer School offered a mixture of small-group 'breakout' sessions and lectures ran by very enthusiastic, friendly and approachable doctors.

Ultimately, the Summer School was very well organised and allowed us to meet very approachable, friendly, enthusiastic pathologists and has confirmed my ideas of pursuing a career in Haematology.

All in all, I had a thoroughly enjoyable and intellectually stimulating experience. I would definitely recommend this programme to any student who aspires to be a good doctor.

The opportunity to attend inspirational talks on the vast array of disciplines within pathology was very exciting.

As a result of attending the Summer School, I have been given an insight into the operations of a pathology department and an enhanced understanding of what a future job in this area would entail.

The pathology museum venue was inspiring and sessions were well organised. It was really useful to speak to current trainees and established professionals regarding specialty training for different pathways within pathology.

I would highly recommend the Summer School, no matter what stage of medical school you're at or which medical school you attend.

The Pathology Summer School was a fantastic event, which really stimulated me to think about pathology in its broadest sense, while helping me to consider future career options.

I thought the workshops were well organised and the staff were very friendly. After attending the event, I am now strongly considering a career in pathology.

The Summer School has completely changed my view on pathology, which is now one of my top career choices. I enjoyed meeting doctors representing different pathology specialties, but the highlight of the event for me was the pathology quiz - a fun opportunity to network with trainees and students from across the UK.

**Suzy Lishman**  
**October 2017**