



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

Pathological Society



# Pathology summer school

for medical students

## 2016 Evaluation report



**BIA**  
British Infection Association



**BNS**  
British Neuropathological Society



## Summary

- The third annual Pathology Summer School took place on August 19-20 2016 and was sponsored by seven pathology organisations
- 76 students from 30 UK medical schools attended the Summer School at Guy's Hospital, London
- 20 pathologists gave talks or ran small-group sessions
- Specialties represented included histopathology, haematology, microbiology, immunology, neuropathology, forensic pathology and paediatric pathology
- Other topics covered included education, leadership, research and public engagement
- 95% of students said that the summer school helped clarify their career intentions
- 95% of students are more likely to pursue a career in pathology after attending the summer school
- 100% would recommend the summer school to a friend
- The subjects students would most like to learn more about were pots, neuropathology, paediatric pathology, research and haematology

## Students' comments included:

- I don't think that anything could be improved. What's already being done is great and the fact that you provide it for free is unbelievable.
- Had a wonderful time. I think it is really great that we get to learn so much as undergrads so we can make an informed decision in the future. Wish other Colleges would do the same.
- Thank you for all the work put into organising this for us. It's lovely seeing how passionate everyone is about the work they do – I am looking forward to a career in pathology.
- I had a great time and gained an excellent insight into a career in pathology. The enthusiasm of all the trainers/consultants was very clear and inspiring.
- My interest in this discipline has increased after attending the conference and I am thankful for being accepted to attend.
- Thoroughly enjoyed the event and has inspired to start up my own student pathology society at Liverpool.

## Things to consider for future summer schools:

- Making more use of the pots if holding at the Gordon Museum again
- Make sessions more interactive; consider using hand-held voting devices
- Ensure speakers understand the range of year groups and pitch their talks accordingly
- Personal reflections, multi-disciplinary talks, current research and the quiz were particularly popular
- Invite more trainees to participate, particularly in small group sessions
- Offer places to 80-85 students as some always drop out

## Evaluation Report

The third annual Pathology Summer School was held in the Gordon Museum at Guy's Hospital on August 19th and 20th 2016. The event was sponsored by the following organisations:

- ACP (£3K)
- BDIAP (£3K)
- BIA (£3K)
- BNS (£1K)
- BSH (£1500)
- Pathological Society (£3K)
- RCPATH (£3K)

The event programme was developed by Dr Nicki Cohen, RCPATH Undergraduate Lead. The event was organised and administered by Michelle Merrett, RCPATH Events and Facilities Manager, and her team. Use of the Guy's Museum was kindly donated by Mr Bill Edwards, Curator. A donation was made to the museum.

The Summer School was advertised at all UK medical schools. There were 140 applicants from 30 medical schools. All applicants were asked to submit a statement about why they wanted to attend. These were reviewed by Dr Nicki Cohen and the best 80 selected based on the students' reasons for wanting to attend the school (to learn about pathology in general rather than attend a revision course) and to give a spread across all medical schools.

Of the 80 students offered places:

- 79 students accepted places
- 4 withdrew the week before the event
- 2 of these places were filled from the waiting list
- 1 student didn't turn up
- 30 medical schools were represented
- 65 evaluation forms were returned

The programme was a mixture of plenary lectures (7 x 45 minutes) and small group sessions (28 x 45 minutes). Each student attended five small group sessions. Speakers were suggested by the sponsoring organisations.

All students who requested it were given one night's accommodation in local University Halls. Food and drink were provided:

- Cold drinks during breaks
- Packed lunch each day
- Buffet supper and bar Friday evening
- Breakfast at University Halls on Saturday morning

Students had an opportunity to talk to pathologists at a drinks reception before the meal on Friday evening. The buffet meal was followed by a quiz. These were held in the Robens Suite on the 29th floor of Guy's Tower. Amazon gift tokens and giant microbes were given to the winning team. The runners up received mini-microbes.

Each student was asked to complete an evaluation form:

**How much do you agree with the following statements?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Before applying, I was interested in pathology as a future career	2 (3%)	6 (9%)	43 (66%)	14 (22%)
The summer school helped clarify my career intentions		3 (5%)	38 (58%)	24 (37%)
I am more likely to pursue a career in pathology as a consequence of attending the summer school		3 (5%)	32 (49%)	30 (46%)
Would you recommend the summer school to a fellow student/friend?			12 (18%)	53 (82%)

**Please rate the following on a scale of 1 (poor) to excellent (5)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
Organisation and communication before summer school			1	10	54	4.8
Accommodation and location		3	3	12	46	4.5
Catering			15	26	24	4.1
Summer school as a whole		1	1	17	46	4.7

**Breakout sessions**

28 small group sessions were held. Students selected their preferred topics in advance and had the opportunity to attend five sessions during the summer school. Individual session scores have been circulated to the session leads.

The most popular sessions were:

- Pots
- Forensic pathology
- Haematology
- Histopathology
- Leadership
- Neuropathology
- Paediatric pathology
- Research

**Plenary sessions**

Seven 45-minute lectures were attended by all students. Individual lecture scores have been circulated to lecturers.

The most popular lectures were:

- Pathology in far-flung places (Prof Sebastian Lucas)
- Using pathology in regenerative medicine (Prof Mark Lowdell)

Students were asked to answer the following two questions:

**What might we do next year to improve on the Summer School?**

Some of the talks on the first day (Friday) had some overlapping material e.g. multiple talks referred to training pathology and these were for interest in some of the breakout session.

Towards a cure regenerative medicine lecture seems a little advanced for my level (maybe it was just me!) and the 'pathology in far-flung places' lecture seems a little long.

Would it be possible for the breakout session to be longer in duration? They are so interesting!

Provide a list of speakers in advance, so that attendees know who will be speaking. I think this would encourage questions following talks and networking.

Less death by power point, explain graphs slightly more in detail.

Nice to hear more about each individual background and how they got into pathology/how they balance home life with their career.

Maybe lectures a little less sciencey and more varied.

More info on how we can build our CV up towards a career in pathology.

I think more time to speak to the pathologists after each break out session. I wanted to talk to someone but had to leave for a plenary.

More time to look around the pots. I missed lunch so I could look around.

Advertise in more medical schools

More breakout sessions and less lectures.

I would have smaller groups and also to have the layout of the room in a circle as it created a more friendly environment. Also have longer than half an hour to speak to pathologists on the Friday evening.

More breakout sessions so that we can experience more of the different specialties.

I wish it could have been longer. A longer summer school would be fantastic.

Also I wonder if it were possible to have something practical something a bit hands on.

I loved inter-active sessions maybe this could be increased.

I preferred the breakout sessions to the larger talks as there was more opportunity to ask questions.

The lectures are quite long, 45 mins may not seem much but when it's three times a day, you lack concentration. Maybe limit to 30 mins.

It might have been nice to have a tea break on Saturday morning – felt quite intense with back to back sessions.

I think the lectures would be better as 30 mins max. I would rather have spent this extra time exploring the pots. Some of these talks were very in depth (the cancer one especially) and seemed a bit much. Half an hour might be enough.

Also less oranges would be nice...maybe an apple?

Have the sessions presented in more seminar format by reducing the formality it makes the session feel less formal. Perhaps being able to look at slides as well as gross specimens would be nice.

I don't think that anything could be improved. What's already being done is great and the fact that you provide it for free is unbelievable.

More time for pots sessions – it was fun and very well led, but we didn't have enough time to see pots from all specialties.

Don't shorten the lunch break on the second day – we need this time to rest, get to know other people and actually finish lunch!

The Cancer Research talk wasn't pitched right for us.

Nothing.

If a questionnaire or pre-reading needs to be completed beforehand, it would be more useful to be informed a little bit earlier if possible.

Coffee break in the morning.

Cancer talk was a bit detailed and lost a lot of people I think simple science in talks.

Regenerative medicine and pathology in far-flung places was amazing.

More interactive lectures? MCQ tablet responses.

Lectures on histopath workflow: follow a specimen from theatre to cut up to slides to specimens to MDT (case study)

Lecture on autopsy workflow (as above, using a case study)

I thoroughly enjoyed the summer school, however, I would really appreciate some more detailed sessions specifically looking at slides and cells. Some tips on immunology learning and methods of understanding would be hugely valued as I and many colleagues struggle with this.

Introduce more interactive activities so that people can work together and get to know each other especially on the first day.

May help keep people alert, there is a lot of listening involved in each day.

Give lecturers emails for future contact.

If possible giving 2 days accommodation as some of us came with overnight travel over 5-6 hours.

Include a disposable knife, with orange in lunch

Some lectures in too much detail. Personalised lectures Prof Lucas/Dr Howat were brilliant.

More interactive sessions.

The only thing I can think of is to maybe have lectures or sessions in a wider variety of specialties, apart from that the whole weekend was great!

Information/resources about working in pathology in electives.

More time to look at the museum/specimens – such a great place. Maybe a free museum breakout to spend time looking around.

Medical education session was very basic (though I do appreciate that practical teaching activities take up a lot of time). Perhaps would have been good to supplement with advice on how to do medical education early as possible even during medical school and learn more in detail about learning types and teaching types. I did enjoy it though!

Just let people know how warm the room is in advance – short sleeves for all! Also it would be great to have the Saturday afternoon time as well as the Friday to look around the museum.

Maybe an extra break somewhere on the Saturday? Also would really like access to the slides.

I believe that the 'training to be a pathologist' could have been shorter because the information re this is easily available on the internet.

More interactive sessions would be helpful. It is good to have general pathology topics rather than specific/post-graduate topics.

I think this was perfectly set out. All was useful and everyone very pleasant. Possibly have an ice-breaker session for people to get to know one another.

More time with the pots – Dr Lisa Browning & Dr Matt Clarke made the pots session clinically relevant explaining the patient presentation, blood tests, biopsies etc. Most related to the diagnosis and treatment of each condition.

Less overlap about the length of the training course. Most of the breakout sessions showed slides about the progression from Foundation to CMT to RCPATH membership.

More veg options for lunch. Smaller oranges /more fruits.

Very difficult question. The summer school is excellent as it is. I think more can be done to inform medical students through their medical schools of the summer school.

This way the awareness of the summer school would be bigger and more students would apply (its free for god's sake). We could also be split into our year groups as I felt some of the topics were too complex for 1st year medical students.

Very well organised. Good mix of breakout sessions and talks. Food at the dinner was a bit strange.

Make it start a bit later so people are more alert.

More talks about training and information about how to become a pathologist.

If possible more information on other specialties such as biochemistry or toxicology.

Perhaps adding more practical hands on sessions.

It was all fantastic!

Trainees present at the drinks/evening would have been good, also hearing more trainees' perspectives in the talks.

Tips for training post application/how trainees are selected.

A session showing a virtual autopsy would be really interesting! (assuming a real demonstration is not possible)

Later start on the second day, more lectures by experts in their field.

Cancer research talk was interesting, but not aimed at the right audience.

The talk was too intense in my opinion aimed for a post graduate audience.

As mentioned previously – the accommodation.

Difficult location as well as stuffy.

Shorter sessions and more options to see different pathologies.

Perhaps make it longer.

The Cancer research talk was too difficult to understand for a first year.

Earlier start to dinner, more pots sessions (if in the Gordon Museum which is great!!) Maybe one full day instead.

Some handouts would be helpful.

Replace oranges with apples in lunch – too hard and messy to peel.

Engage with audience, we are students not pathologists.

A break between breakout sessions of next talk would help with concentration.

Otherwise everything was great and I absolutely got inspired by summer school. I am hoping to take advantage of path soc support for research of event organisations in the future.

I really enjoyed last year summer school. The location made the atmosphere much charming than in London. I'm a first year student last year I asked for two night accommodation but I would recommend now one night accommodation but please do it in a smaller city/campus which makes a lot of difference to atmosphere.

Sessions orientated to final year medical students as well as young medical students, it would have been nice to learn about AFP opportunities.

Keep the same - perhaps more clinical relevance in complex subjects like genetics. Excellent 2 days.

### **Any other comments?**

This was really well organised and most of the material was at the right level for students. I found this really useful and definitely recommend to other students in the future. What particularly stands out is how so many pathologists offered to provide advice/support for future projects etc. to help build up our CVs and future careers.

Thank you very much, I am so pleased I attended this weekend and I now feel inspired to find out more about pathology.

The last PowerPoint 'Personalised Pathology' had too many graphs, low resolution difficult to make out.

### **Lunch and accommodation**

Thank you so much for hosting. Had a wonderful time. I think it is really great that we get to learn so much as undergrads so we can make an informed decision in the future. Wish other Colleges would do the same.

Really great time! Thank you very much for the opportunity. Would love it to be a little longer.

Very well run, insightful and interesting. This was a fantastic event and really sold pathology to me.

Better exposure as quite a lot of the students do not know about the summer school.

More session of summer school being held in other part of UK.

Thank you for organising the summer school.

Thank you very much for this, it was better than I had hoped.

Thank you for all the work put into organising this for us. It was a great two days. It's lovely seeing how passionate everyone is about the work they do – I am looking forward to a career in pathology.

I found the weekend really good – interesting speakers. It is very refreshing to hear Drs who are still passionate about their careers after 20+ years and who are very encouraging to the future generation of doctors, rather than the 'doom and gloom' of the NHS!

Thank you for an enjoyable and informative weekend.

Sebastian Lucas' talk was really interesting and something that has definitely directed my future career aims.

Dr Brett Lockyer was very good and the forensic pathology session was interesting. He was engaging and enthusiastic but also very informative.

My room in the accommodation had bed bugs, the situation was resolved and I was allowed to move rooms but the accommodation should be clean and hygienic.

I enjoyed this even more than I thought I would. All the professionals involved in this weekend were so friendly, down to earth, and approachable and their enthusiasm was really inspiring. I hope that I am as content at the end of my career in pathology.

Thank you so much for organising this summer school! It's been so very fun and interesting.

Education was not very specific to pathology so I did not find it useful. Overall a very enjoyable weekend and it was an honour to hear such amazing things that expert pathologists have done. I like the mixture of talks and breakout sessions.

Loved pots!! Thank you for a fantastic two days – food, accommodation and company has been great.

LOVED Dr Lucas' talk! So inspiring! THANK YOU ALL!

I have enjoyed my weekend! I have gained a greater insight in the world of pathology. It has been great meeting peers and learning from interesting and keen mentors. I particularly like the pots breakout session, gave us a chance to think and solve some mysteries ourselves. Prof Sebastian Lucas' lecture was very insightful. It was great to see how pathology is also relevant internationally.

Great accommodation and meal on Friday night. Pots session with Matt was brilliant, two pots sessions would be fantastic (if possible).

Like the 45min sessions. Dr Howat & Prof Lucas are fab speakers.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I really learnt a lot this weekend – more about specialties I had already thought of and brand new ones. It was an honour to be taught by doctors with such knowledge and passion for their subject.

Thank you for arranging.

Pots were really well explained and thoroughly enjoyed this. Also the quiz was really fun and overall was really well organised and coordinated.

The breakout sessions need to be careful not to become 'a potted history of.....' and more of an introduction to the specialty.

Organisers were so dedicated very impressed. Thoroughly enjoyed the event and has inspired to start up my own student pathology society at Liverpool.

The medical education workshop was really interesting as it helped explore cognitive styles and placed emphasis on the importance of various teaching styles in medicine. The leadership workshop was very enjoyable and explained about the nature of doctors and their thought processes. It helped me appreciate weaknesses in my personal leadership style so that I can be aware of that in future practice MDT's etc. Lecture material was presented in a witty animated way. The content was relevant up to date and the breadth of subjects was stimulating.

Loved the quiz and talking to the pathologists.

Thank you all for accepting and accommodating me!! I thoroughly enjoyed it! Less talks more activities and interactive sessions for breakouts.

Interactive sessions work better than sit down lectures for the breakout sessions.

Well organised, well run summer school. Very welcoming, passionate speakers. Overall a good experience useful enjoyable weekend.

Some really interesting and useful sessions. Also the quiz and dinner were great!

Really amazing location and accommodation. So glad to have access to the Gordon Museum specimens! Extremely well organised and really enjoyable weekend.

Fantastic!

I enjoyed the combination of lectures and group sessions (breakouts). Now I feel more aware of pathology as a specialty and how to apply. My interest in this discipline has increased after attending the conference and I am thankful for being accepted to attend. Thank you.

Excellent experience!

Possibly a longer summer school.

Make sure that Dr's giving presentations don't talk about things that are too out of depth for students.

Neuropathology breakout was a bit disappointing.

Great location and organisation. Great communication.

Fantastic event. Very grateful.

I enjoyed the every aspect of the event a lot and will definitely recommend it to my friends. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in such a great event!

I had a great time and gained an excellent insight into a career in pathology. The enthusiasm of all the trainers/consultants was very clear and inspiring. Everyone was very friendly. The venue was great, the talks were useful and I felt welcome.

Thanks

The dinner and quiz was great fun and accommodation was fantastic. Thank you so much.

Thank you ever so much for holding this summer school.

With grateful thanks to:

- All the sponsoring organisations
- Dr Nicki Cohen, event organiser
- Mrs Michelle Merrett, RCPATH Events and Facilities Manager
- Ms Clare Winter, RCPATH Events Co-ordinator
- Mr Bill Edwards, Curator, the Gordon Museum
- All the speakers and small group session leads

**Suzy Lishman**  
**September 2016**