



Dermatopathology Sub-Committee (SC) Meeting

A meeting of the Dermatopathology Sub-committee was held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 14:00pm via MS Teams.

Professor Sarah Coupland
Registrar

Minutes

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| Present: | Dr Paul Craig | Chair |
| | Dr Catherine Stefanato | President, British Society of Dermatology |
| | Dr Jon Oxley | Pathology Portal Lead |
| | Dr Anoud Zidan | BAD representative |
| | Dr Arti Bakshi | NSDEQA lead |
| In attendance | Miss Shelaine Kissoon | Governance and Committee Services Officer (minutes) |
| Apologies | Dr Lynne Jamieson | Chair, Panel of Examiners |
| Absent | Prof Adrian Bateman | Chair, Cellular Pathology SAC |
| | Prof Sarah Coupland | RCPATH, Registrar |
| | Dr Sara Edward | Co-opted (E-learning) |
- Derm.12/24 1. Welcome, declarations of conflict of interests and apologies for absence**
- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and informed that this would be his final meeting in the role. It was noted that a new Chair will be appointed going forward.
 - 1.2 Apologies for absence was received and noted above.
 - 1.3 There were no declarations of conflict of interest.
- Derm.13/24 2. Review and approve the minutes of the previous meeting**
- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.
 - 2.2 There had been no matters arising not already covered on the agenda.
 - 2.3 The action log¹ had been reviewed and updated.
- a) Derm.08/23: Workforce survey to collate the number of fellowships to compile a list of trainers for the Diploma in Dermatopathology
- It was noted that the action remains in progress. The SC discussed the absence of a definitive list of Diploma in Dermatopathology holders. It was suggested that the RCPATH Examinations Team be approached for assistance in obtaining a list, though GDPR limitations were raised; and it was also suggested that diploma holders be approached indirectly with a message to EQA participants. The Chair to contact Dr Bakshi and the RCPATH Examination Team for assistance. **Action remains in progress.**



- b) Derm.08/23: Compile a list of candidates from the RCPATH Bulletin of those who have passed the Diploma in Dermatopathology
The SC acknowledged that compiling a complete record from previous Bulletins is not achievable. As a result, this action has been declared closed.
- c) Derm.11/23: Trainee representative
It was noted that the Trainees' Advisory Committee is in the process of recruiting a new dermatopathology trainee representative and once a trainee is appointed, they will be assigned as a member of the SC. **Action remains in progress.**
- d) Derm.14/23: Meeting between Dermatopathology Subcommittee and Conjoint Board RCPATH/IBMS Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board to discuss BMS reporting issues
The Chair mentioned that as it is his last meeting, the incoming Chair and Dr Stefanato would need to consult with Ms Joanne Brinklow (RCPATH Director of Learning) regarding arranging a meeting to discuss the BMS reporting issues. **Action remains in progress.**
- e) Derm.14/23: Biomedical scientists passing their dermatopathology exam need to be distinguished from doctors passing the RCPATH Diploma in Dermatopathology.
The SC received and noted the paper from Ms Joanna Brinklow (RCPATH Director of Learning) which provided clarification on the matter. Action declared closed.
- f) Derm.15/23: National Genomics Test Directory
Recent developments at the RCPATH Cellular Pathology SAC meeting have led to an agreement that specialty advisors, including dermatopathology, will now play a formal role in genomic test evaluation alongside the Chair of the RCPATH Genomics and Reproductive Science Chair. Action declared closed.

Derm.14/24 3. Academic Activities

3.1 Diploma Examinations

Dr Jamieson had sent her apologies for the meeting. In her absence, the Chair provided a brief update on the recent Diploma practical examination. He reported that the exam was held in October 2024 and, for the second time, took place at the RCPATH. The venue was noted to be well-suited to the scale of the event. The Chair extended thanks to the RCPATH Examinations Team for their support in organising the examination. It was noted that seven candidates sat the practical component. Dr Anoud shared that she had attended one day of the examination in her capacity as an upcoming examiner and found the experience to be valuable. It was further noted that the early submission of examiner cases had a positive impact on the examination process and should be encouraged for future sittings.

3.2 Pathology Portal

Dr Oxley informed that he is stepping down from the Pathology Portal editor role due to time constraints and difficulties with their digital system. He suggested the role be taken on by someone with better access to digital resources.

Action: Shelaine Kissoon to recruit a new Pathology Portal representative.

Derm.15/24 4. Guidelines

- 4.1 The Chair provided a brief update on the guidelines, and it was noted that the group is moving ahead with updates to the skin cancer datasets, as no major TNM changes are

expected. RCPATH is aligning with ICCR standards, and NICE is no longer overseeing the process, simplifying governance. Key updates are needed for SCC, and there is interest in developing separate guidance for borderline melanocytic lesions. Due to the heavy workload, authorship is being shared, and expressions of interest will be invited more widely after 6 December via the EQA. Educational sessions will follow dataset updates to support implementation. There's agreement that evolving areas like genomics are better addressed through flexible educational materials rather than formal datasets.

Derm.16/24 5. Training

- 5.1 No update – trainee representative is yet to be appointed.

Derm.17/24 6. National Specialist Dermatopathology EQA (NSDEQA)

- 6.1 Dr Bakshi provided the following report on the NSDEQA:
- Circulation AH was completed in Spring 2024 with a review meeting held on 24th May 2024. This was the 1st 'digital only' circulation and the transition were seamless with positive feedback. Although there was an option given to members to request glass slides, only a couple of participants requested for this. 414 out of 453 members submitted their responses (91.3% response rate) and 250 members attended the review meeting. 9 out of the 10 cases were deemed 'scoring' cases following interactive discussion and voting by a highly engaged audience. Melanoma slide club discussion and 2 educational talks by international speakers were well received. Following compilation of scores, one action point letter was issued. Net circulation (Circ AI) is due to start to early Sep.
 - Dr Mark Bamford stepped down from his role as chair of the NSDEQA steering committee after 6 years in this role. Dr David Slater retired and stepped down as member of steering committee whilst Dr Su En Low joined as a new member of the committee. Dr Arti Bakshi has taken over as chair of the committee. 2 vacant posts will be advertised soon.
 - The scheme received a few membership applications in 2024 from Biomedical scientists engaged in dermatopathology reporting. They have been given limited membership (akin to trainees and overseas applicants) to allow them to benefit from the educational component of the scheme. BMS staff do not fulfil current entry requirements for full membership as per NSDEQA SOP, but discussions are ongoing within the steering committee to explore this issue further.

Derm.18/24 7. Society Updates

7.1 British Association of Dermatologist (BAD)

Dr Zidan noted there was no formal complaint or issues to raise, only a previous mention that dermatologists were unaware of BMS reporting.

Dr Stefanato highlighted that a meeting which took place in September 2024 with Tamara Griffiths was aimed at raising awareness of BMS. The Chair stated that he is involved in developing new BAD service standards and future skin cancer guidelines as the RCPATH representative, however he may hand this role over to a new representative in the future.

7.2 British Society for Dermatopathology (BSD)

Dr Stefanato provided the following report:

- BSD Society membership is growing steadily, and monthly seminars are running well with strong attendance and international speakers, with approximately 80 to 100 attendees. The 2025 seminar calendar is nearly full.

- The ISDP 2026 meeting is confirmed for 24–26 September at the Royal College of Physicians, London. Executive Committee approval is sought to begin sponsorship efforts and formal planning. A hybrid format is being considered, with around 200–250 in-person attendees and additional online access, depending on funding.
- Further discussions with the EQA Committee will take place. Dr Oxley suggested incorporating the Skin EQA into ISDP 2026 to boost attendance and engagement.
- The next BSD Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 17 December 2024. The Committee are active on improving the teaching activities.
- Work is underway on making BSD website more attractive.
- The BSD newsletter will be shortly circulated with a review of the activities.
- In relation to the ISDP, Dr Stefanato reported that she is eager to firm the exact 2026 ISDP dates and venues and is very keen to have the BAD with Chris Garrett (BAD Conferences Manager) on board.

Derm.19/24 8. Standing items

8.1 Formation of specialist networks for Dermatopathology reporting following the French CARADERM model

The Chair provided an update on the progress and challenges related to the formation of specialist pathology networks, including dermatopathology. He mentioned that he raised the matter at a RCPATH Cellular Pathology SAC meeting but noted limited enthusiasm, however he stressed the importance of the RCPATH leading these initiatives.

The Chair highlighted significant issues with the current NHS IT infrastructure, describing it as fragmented and inconsistent, which impedes effective digital pathology case sharing across Trusts. He recommended establishing a centralised IT system for pathology services to overcome these barriers. The Chair mentioned that he submitted feedback on behalf of the SC to the government's NHS 10-year plan consultation, advocating for IT system reforms; however, there was cautious scepticism about the consultation's influence. Additionally, it was noted that pathology was not addressed in the Darcy report, and fellowships in digital pathology and artificial intelligence were briefly referenced.

It was agreed to remove this item from future meeting agendas.

8.2 Fellowships in Dermatopathology

None reported.

It was agreed to remove this item from future meeting agendas.

8.3 Digital Pathology & Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Chair highlighted the increasing emergence of AI devices in clinical practice, particularly those claiming superiority over traditional methods such as dermoscopy and prostate cancer diagnostics. He noted the existence of pathology guidelines on AI but emphasised the need for a coordinated joint position statement involving dermatology and pathology. He also raised concerns about the current lack of clear regulatory oversight for these AI tools, suggesting this as an area for future development.

It was agreed that this item be removed from future meeting agendas.

8.4 Collaboration with BAD regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) joint position statement for Dermatopathology and Dermatology

The Chair mentioned that Digital Pathology had put out their own position statement, however he suggested that the BAD look at putting out their own statement.

It was agreed that this item is removed from future meeting agendas.

- 8.5 Meeting between Dermatopathology Subcommittee and Conjoint Board RCPATH/IBMS Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board to discuss BMS reporting issues
Covered above under action log Derm.13/24 (d).

Derm.20/24 9. Outside committee business

- 9.1 NICE guidelines for melanoma update 2023
Dr Jamieson was not present and therefore there had been no update.

- 9.2 National Genomics Test Directories
The SC discussed the progress of the national genomics test directory, which is currently managed in an ad hoc way in England and moving slowly due to resource cuts. It was agreed that each RCPATH Subspecialty Advisor should form a group to decide which genomic tests should be included. There was discussion about the need for clear guidelines to help pathologists use these tests properly. It was suggested that the EQA program could help distribute these guidelines widely. The role of the RCPATH versus specialty societies in developing and educating about these guidelines was debated.

Frustration was expressed about the lack of coordination between the National Genomics Medicine Service and NHS England pathology, and the RCPATHs insufficient advocacy on this issue. The Chair encouraged using cancer charities and public advocacy to pressure for change and urged the next chair to continue pushing for progress.

Derm.21/24 10. Any other business

The Chair mentioned that this was his last meeting as Chair of the SC and thanked members for their help and support during his term. Members of the SC extended their thanks and expressed their appreciation to the Chair for taking on multiple roles during a challenging period marked by staff cutbacks and increased workload.

The meeting ended with thanks to all, encouragement for ongoing participation, and plans to circulate meeting invitations and recruitment notices shortly.

Derm.22/24 11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 29 July 2025 at 2pm for a duration of 2 hours.