

### **Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology SAC Minutes**

A meeting of the Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology SAC was held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 10:00am – 12:00pm via Zoom conferencing.

**Prof Sarah Coupland**  
**Registrar**

<b>Present:</b>	Dr Srinivas Annavarapu Professor Marta Cohen Dr Gauri Batra Dr Jo McPartland Shelaine Kissoon	Chair Academic Lead/RCPATH Vice President for Learning Rep. Professional Advisory Group for National Child Past Chair Ex-Officio Governance and Committee Services Officer ( <i>minutes</i> )
<b>In attendance:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	Dr Clair Evans Dr Edmund Cheesman	Curriculum Lead/ Chair of the Panel of Examiners BRIPPA representative

#### **PPP.11/24 Welcome, declaration of conflicts of interests and apologies for absence**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.
- 1.2 No apologies had been received.
- 1.3 There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

#### **PPP.12/24 Minutes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2024 was reviewed and approved as a correct record.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising not already covered on the agenda.
- 2.3 The action log was reviewed, and the following updates were noted:

#### **PPP.24/21 – Genetic pathology and metabolic medicine two-day course**

The action had been postponed until a clinical genetics representative is appointed. Action remains in progress.

#### **PPP.07/22 – Clinical Genetics representative**

It was noted that the role was advertised, and no applications had been received. The would be re-advertised in 2025. Action remains in progress.

#### **PPP.20/22 – BRIPPA trainee representative**

The Chair advised that BRIPPA are in the process of appointing a trainee representative; once the appointment is confirmed, the individual would take on the trainee representative role on the SAC. Action remains in progress.

#### **PPP.13/24 Examinations**

It was noted that Dr Evans had demitted her role on the Panel of Examiners.

#### **PPP.14/24 Trainees' update**

It was noted that the RCPATH Trainee Advisory Committee had advertised the paediatric pathology trainee role, and one application had been received, which is currently going through the approval process. Once the application is approved, the trainee appointed would undertake the trainee role on the SAC.



**PPP.15/24 British and Irish Paediatric Pathology Association (BRIPPA)**

The representative was not present and therefore there had been no update.

Prof Cohen advised that Dr Sophie Stenton (Education Secretary for the British and Irish Paediatric Pathology Association (BRIPPA)) did a presentation for Chinese paediatric pathologists. She mentioned that it is important that there is some active paediatric pathology representation within the Pathological Society and BRIPPA is keen to collaborate with Pathological Society on some paediatric pathology sessions.

**PPP.16/24 Specialty updates**

6.1 Clinical Biochemistry

No update – representative yet to be appointed.

6.2 Genetics and Reproductive Science

No update – representative yet to be appointed.

**PPP.17/24 Academic activities**

7.1 Joint Clinical Genetics/ Pathology study day

The planning of the joint clinical/genetics pathology study day had been postponed until a clinical genetics representative is appointed.

7.2 Specialty Specific Webinars

Prof Cohen informed that a free two part webinar series had been organised by the RCPATH International Team on [Publishing paper for journals and applying for international grants](#). The series was to provide pathologists from around the world with skills to utilise outside of the laboratory to help facilitate progress in an academic career. The webinars took place on the 14th and 18th of October 2024 with approximately 200 attendees.

It was suggested that a webinar series on gastrointestinal, eosinophilic conditions and liver be organised; Prof Cohen agreed to organise these webinars.

7.3 Patient Safety

It was noted that the current workforce crisis is the single most important issue which impounds on patient safety.

**PPP.18/24 Best Practice Recommendation**

Reece Carfrae advised that the best practice recommendation on '*staffing and workload for paediatric and perinatal pathology departments*' was due for a review in June 2019 and enquired if members felt there is a need to update the guideline.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the workload complexity figures and it was suggested that the guideline be discussed at the next BRIPPA meeting. The Chair suggested that a questionnaire be drafted and circulated to BRIPPA members prior to the meeting to get their views on the guideline and how to take it forward.

**PPP.19/24 Any other business**

9.1 IBMS Diploma Placental Pathology:

It was noted that the IBMS are developing a Diploma in Placental Pathology, and the work is being led by the Chair.

The Chair advised that the work around the development of the Diploma qualification has begun, and the design of the curriculum has been completed and is at a level of consultation. The curriculum was submitted to NHS England with a request for funding; once funding is approved, the curriculum design will be circulated to the SAC and BRIPPA

for approval. The aim is to complete the development of the qualification by September 2025 or latest by January 2026.

The structure of the qualification was explained, and it was mentioned that currently there are four centres that are interested and enthusiastic about the qualification. The SAC were asked to identify more centres and candidates to do the qualification; and Dr Batra mentioned that she would present information on the Diploma to her department and potential candidates.

9.2 Paediatric Sarcoma reporting

Prof Cohen informed that there is currently an issue at the Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust in relation to paediatric sarcoma reporting and stated that the adult sarcoma team at the hospital had tried to take away the reporting from paediatric pathologists. A meeting is being scheduled with BRIPPA and the College to discuss and address the matter.

9.3 Committee membership

It was noted that the Chairs term on the SAC ends in November 2024, and this would be his last meeting. Shelaine Kissoon informed that the Chair is eligible for a second term and if he wishes to be re-appointed, he needs to re-apply for the role once it is advertised; all received applications will go through the standard College appointment process. Members of the SAC acknowledged the Chair for the great work he has done for the specialty and for the College and encouraged him to apply to be re-appointed.

It was suggested that a forensic pathology representative be recruited to join the SAC.

**PPP.20/24 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 15 May 2025 at 11:30am for a duration of 2 hours.