

## Training and education

**1)** Following the publication of the Shape of Training Review it seemed that an application to gain subspecialty recognition for dermatopathology would, at this time, be unlikely to be successful. The alternative option to convert the current Diploma in Dermatopathology to the FRCPath (Dermatopathology) would not only fulfil the College's aim to phase out Diploma examinations but raise the status of the specialty which would likely be a useful step towards gaining full subspecialty recognition in the future. The Dermatopathology SAC learned in May the Examinations Committee declined to take this proposal further which is disappointing as this issue has previously been taken to a very advanced stage.

Approximately 8-10 years ago (under the chairmanship of Dr D Slater and Dr M Walsh) the following was agreed by the Dermatopathology Sub-committee, Examinations Committee and Council:-

- a)** That the Diploma in Dermatopathology be replaced by the FRCPath (Dermatopathology) from the date of Council approval.
- b)** That dermatologists in possession of their CCT would be granted exemption from the FRCPath Part 1 examination for the purpose of taking the FRCPath (Dermatopathology).
- c)** That the FRCPath (Dermatopathology) and subspecialty recognition were considered closely related, but independent approvals. The implementation of the FRCPath (Dermatopathology) was, however, temporarily deferred pending the outcome of negotiations on subspecialty application, but with the aim of it being implemented whatever that outcome.

The Dermatopathology SAC will reassess this situation and review this decision in the context of previous minutes where this matter has been discussed.

**2)** At the Dermatopathology SAC in March we appointed Dr Sara Edward (from Leeds) as our lead for e-learning for health. She is now involved in reviewing available e-learning resources for dermatopathology and is beginning to develop new material with the aim of providing a comprehensive web based learning resource. The SAC will monitor developments in this area and may request those with specialist expertise to assist in this project.

**3)** In spring 2014 four candidates sat the written papers of the Diploma in Dermatopathology but only one was successful. There was only one application to sit the practical examination this autumn but that was submitted after the closing date. The SAC will monitor what is likely to be a transient reduction in numbers coming forward to take the examination.

**4)** The National Specialist EQA Scheme in Dermatopathology now has 258 members. There are two slide circulations per annum and currently there are no participants at action point 1 or 2. The review meetings are popular reflecting a strong commitment to an educational component with seminars delivered by internationally recognised speakers. The most recent review meeting was held in Leeds with a excellent talk on vulval pathology by Dr Wolfgang Weyers (Freiburg). The scheme is managed by Dr Mark Bamford (Leicester) with input from the EQA Scheme Steering Committee.



## **Trials and research**

A number of trials are currently in operation particularly for the management of patients with advanced melanoma. It is accepted that this activity produces additional workload including submitting tissue for molecular testing but participation in this is recognised as important. No other issues identified.

## **New developments and issues affecting service delivery**

1) In terms of both specimen numbers and complexity of work the demands on dermatopathologists continues to increase. The expectation to use datasets to report common tumours places more demands on time as does the increasing requirement to interact with colleagues in genetics particularly in the mutational assessment of melanomas, soft tissue tumours and lymphomas.

2) At the most recent Dermatopathology SAC we appointed Dr Paul Barrett (Durham) as Non-melanoma Skin Cancer Audit Lead. Dr Barratt will work jointly with representatives of the BAD to audit aspects of basal and squamous cell carcinoma paying particular attention to dataset usage. The SAC will, when required, provide guidance for this challenging project.

## **Overview of College documents owned or contributed to by the specialty**

Datasets for reporting melanomas, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, Merkel cell carcinoma and adnexal carcinomas are available on the College website and Dr David Slater has recently completed their annual review.

## **Workforce planning**

During 2013 our SAC responded to the call for evidence from Health Education England in trying to determine workforce planning for our specialty. Overall, it was thought reasonable to suggest, as a minimum, one specialist dermatopathologist per 500,000 of population assuming adequate support and cover could be provided by colleagues. Given the sustained increase in demand for dermatopathology services and the potential further expansion in workload including case complexity these figures would need to be subjected to close review and potential periodic revision. There have been no more requests for data on this topic in the last year.

## **Educational event**

The Dermatopathology SAC will organise a Dermatopathology Study Day and this will be held on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2015. These events are always well attended and held every two years.

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SAC on Dermatopathology Chair