

National Pathology Programme Newsletter – October 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter!

The Newsletter is quarterly and keeps you updated with our recent work, achievements, and future plans.

In this edition:

- Programme updates
- Good News Story -
- Future Events...

The National Pathology Programme would like to share pathology-related news, articles and events far and wide. If you know any other colleagues that would be interested in subscribing to our quarterly newsletter, please ask them to contact us at:

NHSWHC.National.Pathology.Programmes@wales.nhs.uk

If you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please contact us via the email address above.

Website: A full relaunch of the revamped Pathology website occurred in May with new content added and a user-friendly approach with more easily accessible pages. Please come and take a look around if you haven't already done so! [Pathology - NHS Wales Executive](#)

Programme Background

The National Pathology Programme is a strategic body in Wales sitting within the NHS Wales Executive, which is in turn hosted by Public Health Wales. Its remit is to work with Health Boards and Trusts across Wales to support the development of high quality, effective and sustainable pathology services. Priority areas for improvement that are the focus of the National Programme were originally identified in the *Pathology Statement of Intent (2019)* and current work is aligned with the *Diagnostics Recovery and Transformation Strategy for Wales (2023 – 2025)*.

Updates on the key areas of our work:

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance workstream has recently set up a task and finish group to work alongside informatics colleagues from the NHS Wales Executive, to collate and turnaround time data for Blood Sciences tests on a national basis.

Business Intelligence

The Programme has worked with BI teams in the NHS Wales Executive to develop a detailed workload dashboard for Cellular Pathology, which is currently being finalised and will be shared with operational managers shortly. The Programme is looking at opportunities for extending this to other disciplines.

There is also a new piece of work being undertaken with Finance colleagues to understand pathology capacity by using establishment data. This data will be in addition to information already collated from ESR.

Digital and Novel Technologies

The business case for Digital Cellular Pathology is currently under review by individual health boards, and has already been approved by CVUHB.

The all Wales computational pathology project has been shortlisted for the Modernising Diagnostics Award in this year's Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards, with the entry 'Revolutionising Cellular Pathology in Wales using Digital Imaging combined with Artificial Intelligence'.

Further meetings have been scheduled with suppliers of a haematology digital scanning and AI solution. Initial discussions have taken place investigating the possibility of a digital microbiology solution.

Discussions have also been ongoing with suppliers and stakeholders in Wales to support the introduction of automated Microtomy to laboratories in Wales. We hope to be able to provide further information about these exciting developments in our next edition of the newsletter.

Equipment Register Project

The aim of the project is to implement a process for collating and prioritising pathology equipment requirements. This will assist the National Diagnostics Programme if capital monies are made available at short notice by Welsh Government. Currently, only the National Imaging Programme has a process in place, and it has been recommended that the rest of the diagnostic specialities adopt the same process.

The project was initiated by collecting baseline data for the Cellular Pathology discipline in the first instance. All submissions from laboratories across Wales have now been collated, however two Health Board submissions are currently outstanding but in progress. The next step, to establish a review group formed of nominated senior representatives with appropriate knowledge of pathology equipment, is currently being explored.

Environmental Sustainability

Work is continuing to be progressed towards the national mapping of best practice and opportunities to advance environmental sustainability across pathology services in Wales. All operational managers were asked to provide information on any sustainability initiatives/projects currently being undertaken in their organisation. A working link has been established with HEIW sustainability fellows and Healthcare Science clinical leads to share workplans and self-assessment toolkits. The Sustainability Collaboration Group continues to meet regularly and now includes representation from the Health and Sustainability Hub, Public Health Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board and the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS).

The deadline for completion of the Programme developed pathology sustainability self-assessment tool, that was sent to the operational managers, has been extended due to their service work pressures. Once all submissions have been returned it will provide a key baseline indicating the current level of maturity for sustainability across all pathology services in Wales.

The "*My Green Lab (MGL) Global Summit 2024*" was held over the 18th and 19th September 2024 with delegates in virtual attendance from across the world. This San Diego based, non-profit organisation works with scientists and research organisations to improve environmental health and resource utilisation. The 2024 summit included keynote sessions, panel discussions, interactive roundtable sessions, tech innovations and products for sustainable labs and concluded with awards. Program updates to the MGL standards and tools were also announced and one of the key messages emphasised is the importance of continuous improvement and stakeholder engagement. The MGL programs include "*my green lab certification*" - a worldwide standard for laboratory sustainability best practices; "*my green lab ambassador*" - a free, online program providing an introduction to laboratory sustainability and how to suggest change in your

lab; and the “freezer challenge” - an international competition aimed at reducing the environmental impact of cold storage.

Further information on MGL, its programs, this year’s global summit and previous annual summits can be found via this link: [My Green Lab](#).

Workforce, Training and Education

The Pathology Practice Education Facilitator pilot in SE region – the recommendations paper has been revised and reviewed by Team members, the Clinical Lead for Workforce and by the workforce group (PWEG) on 17/09/24. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the development of this document. It will be discussed at the Diagnostic Strategic and Operational Group (DSOG) meeting on 7th October.

Point of Care training - the PoCT Training sub-group has undertaken a career development review for PoCT staff in Wales, on behalf of Pathology Workforce and Education Group (PWEG) and the Point of Care Testing Strategy Group. This review has produced a series of recommendations that will be taken forward jointly between PWEG and HEIW. The PoCT Training sub-group will be developing a 30 credit Level 4 unit in collaboration with HEIW. A Task and Finish group has been established (meeting in mid-October 2024) to progress the module content. IBMS to develop a specialist portfolio specifically for PoCT to help with career pathway development for scientists and non-scientific professionals.

Limited Scope Reporting BMS training pilot – the pilot is being funded by the Moondance Cancer Initiative and training is progressing well with 2 trainees in CVUHB. The Programme will be developing a business case for the permanent posts, including a standardised job description in collaboration with NWSSP, which will be approved for national adoption.

There have been discussions with HEIW on the definition and scope of an ‘academy’, and plans are being finalised so that we can resume work to develop the ‘virtual’ pathology on the HEIW Y Ty Dysgu platform.

Communications

Our Communications Project Manager, Lisa McCutcheon and our Project Support Officer, Jo Everett, have left the Programme for new roles in PHW. Unfortunately the Communications work has had to be halted until we can appoint replacements.

Pathology Service Collaboration/Regionalisation

The South East Regional Pathology Steering Group is currently bringing together colleagues from the three Health Boards to support detailed planning of the project going forward.

South West Regional Pathology Programme (ARCH) continue to work with the two Health Boards to progress collaboration between services now that a memorandum of understanding is in place between the two organisations.

Good News Story

We are pleased to announce that the all-Wales computational pathology project has been shortlisted for the Modernising Diagnostics Award in this year’s Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards, with the entry 'Revolutionising Cellular Pathology in Wales using Digital Imaging combined with Artificial Intelligence'. Congratulations to all involved in this achievement and we hope that they do well when the results are announced at the Awards Ceremony on 21st November.

Modernising Diagnostics Award

Finalists:

- **All Wales Cellular Pathology collaboration** - Revolutionising Cellular Pathology in Wales using Digital Imaging combined with Artificial Intelligence
- **Barking Havering Redbridge University Hospitals Trust** - Robotic Colonoscopy helping a paradigm shift
- **Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance** - Greater Manchester Chest X-Ray AI Pilot Project
- **Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust** - NPIC Digital Pathology Deployment
- **NHS England and The Hepatitis C Trust** - The NHS Hepatitis C Online Testing Service
- **NHSE Genomic Unit, North Thames Genomic Medicine Service and North-East and Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service** - Integrating circulating tumour DNA testing into an NHS diagnostic pathway
- **North West London ICS** - North West London AcuPebble Pathway for Straight-to-Test Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Diagnosis: Faster, Cheaper, Equitable, and Sustainable Diagnostic Modernisation
- **North West London Pathology** - Modernising pathology services across a young network
- **University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust** - Modernising Diagnostic Stroke Imaging through Artificial Intelligence

Information

The IBMS Awards

The 2nd annual IBMS Awards is open for entries [IBMS Awards - the most prestigious accolades in biomedical science](#) with 11 categories to celebrate the successes of the profession. Work showcased in the entries for all categories should have taken place between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024. The deadline for entries is 17th January. Good luck!

Upcoming Pathology Events

RCPATH Wales Symposium 2024 – Friday 25th October, Cardiff

The event will be held in-person only at the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff CF10 3HH. Book a place using this link: [Event booking page: RCPATH Wales Symposium 2024](#)

International Pathology Day – Wednesday 6th November 2024, Virtual Conference

Book a place using this link: [Event booking page: International Pathology Day 2024 - Virtual meeting \(rcpath.org\)](#)

Upper Gastrointestinal (Oesophagogastric) Education Event 2024 - Friday 8th November 2024, Cardiff City Stadium

Free to attend event aimed at multidisciplinary colleagues involved in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with Oesophagogastric cancers, including primary care, nursing, AHPs as well as secondary care upper GI teams. [CLICK HERE](#) for full details and to register your attendance

Cancer Network Head and Neck Cancer Education Event 2024 - Friday 22nd November 2024, Sophia Gardens Cricket Stadium, Cardiff

Free to attend event aimed at colleagues from across Wales involved or interested in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with head and neck cancer. [CLICK HERE](#) for full details and to register your attendance.

Cancer Network Breast Cancer Conference - Friday 29th November 2024, Cardiff

Please save the date. Registration and agenda details will be shared shortly. Venue TBC. To express your interest in receiving the registration link please contact Rhiannon.Parker2@wales.nhs.uk.

11th Digital Pathology & AI Congress: Europe – London, Wednesday 11th – 12th December

With a focus on how innovation and AI continue to drive advances in pathology, this 11th conference invites discussion on a number of themes such as successful digital implementation strategies, toxicology pathology, and digital imaging. For further details and booking, click the link: [Digital Pathology & AI Congress: Europe \(global-engage.com\)](https://global-engage.com)

Cancer Network Gynaecology Education Event - Friday 6th December 2024, Swansea

Please save the date, venue TBC. Registration and agenda details will be shared shortly. To express your interest in receiving the registration link please contact Rhiannon.Parker2@wales.nhs.uk.

The Programme team

Alan Deacon	National Pathology Programme Lead
Adam Christian	National Pathology Programme Clinical Lead
Caity Thomas	Senior Project Manager: Digital and Novel Technologies
Kim Williams	Senior Project Manager; Commissioning, Procurement and Environmental Sustainability
Tahir Mohammed	Senior Project Manager, Pathology PEF, Training and Education
Jane Long	Project Manager, Pathology Workforce, Training and Education.
Leanne Barker	Programme Support Manager
Lauren O’Gorman	Business Intelligence

Goodbye and Best Wishes to Joanne Everett (Senior Project Support Officer) who left the Programme Team on 17th September for a new role with Public Health Wales. We wish Jo all the best in her new job and extend our thanks for her hard work on the Programme.

Congratulations to Leanne Barker on her well-deserved new role as our Programme Support Manager.

Contact us

Please email NHSWHC.National.Pathology.Programmes@wales.nhs.uk if you would like:

- to be added to the circulation list for our newsletter
- to provide feedback or contributions
- opportunities to engage with the work of the Programme

Next edition – January 2025