



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

## Liver Pathology

Since 2007, liver pathology activities in the UK have been developed and coordinated by a subcommittee of the BSG Pathology Section. Following a series of discussions and consultation with members of the National Liver Pathology EQA scheme, a new organisation has been formed - the "UK Liver Pathology Group". Committee members have been elected by a ballot sent to liver EQA scheme members. The first meeting of the UKLPG took place by teleconference on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Details relating to the constitution of the UKLPG and minutes of the September meeting can be view on the UKLPG page in the Leeds Virtual Pathology website:

[http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/liver\\_group.php](http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/liver_group.php)

### 1. Interpretive EQA

The National Liver Pathology EQA scheme started in 1994 and now has more than 100 members. There are two circulations of 12 cases per year, as glass slides, also available with special stains on line. The scheme is facilitated by EQALite. Discussion of both circulations takes place during the annual liver pathology update meeting, which this year was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October in Cheltenham. Further details concerning the EQA scheme together with other liver pathology CPD matters are available on the liver pages in the Leeds Virtual Pathology website :

<http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/index.php?>

### 2. Shape of training for small subspecialties

There is an established cycle of liver pathology CPD meetings, which include the following:

- "Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease" - held annually at RCPATH since 2009. Next meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Annual BSG "Update in Liver Pathology". The 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Cheltenham. Copies of the presentations are available for viewing on the liver pages (see above)
- UK Liver Transplant Pathology Group meeting, attended by pathologists working in the 8 UK and Ireland transplant centres. This meeting took place annually from 2008-2014 but did not occur in 2015 or 2016. It is planned to resume holding this meeting every two years to coincide with years when the biennial Banff Conference on Allograft Pathology takes place. The next meeting will therefore be held in 2017, possibly to coincide with the annual meeting of the British Liver Transplant Group, which is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Pathologists who have an interest in liver transplant pathology, but don't work in a transplant centre, will also be welcome to attend.
- A practical slide-based histopathology workshop in Liver Pathology. This has been held twice - March 2014 and September 2015 - and was intended to complement the annual RCPATH course on "Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease". Another course was scheduled for July 2016, but there were insufficient registrants to make it viable. The possibility of running the course again in 2017 will be explored.



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Other postgraduate training activities include the following:

- We continue to provide suitable cases with special stains for the final FRCPath exam.
- We have postgraduate training materials on the liver pages website and intend to develop these further
- Opportunities are available, currently on an ad hoc basis, for training in liver pathology for post-exam trainees, who are considering applying for consultant posts, which include a substantial component of liver pathology. These might benefit from a more formal arrangement.

### **3. Training and Implementation of Molecular Pathology**

Molecular pathology techniques currently have a limited role in routine clinical practice in liver pathology. Liver cancer is increasing and molecular pathology is likely to be important in the future. Primary liver cancer is not a cancer site included in the 100,000 genome project. A number of research studies are investigating the role of molecular techniques as diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic markers in primary hepatic neoplasms, including hepatocellular adenoma, hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma. These include a National Collaborative HCC UK initiative, which has pathology representation.

### **4. Datasets and ICCR**

The following documents have been published via the RCPATH:

- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies – 2nd edition published March 2014. Further discussions are taking place with colleagues in hepatology and radiology regarding guidelines for obtaining liver biopsies of adequate size for reporting on medical liver diseases.
- Dataset for liver cancer – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published June 2012. Planning of 3<sup>rd</sup> version is being deferred, pending publication of the ICCR Liver Cancer Dataset (see below).

Work has been carried out since July 2014 to produce an ICCR Liver Cancer Dataset. This document includes recommendations for reporting cases of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, perihilar cholangiocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma. The chair of the group is Prof AD Burt. Dr JI Wyatt and Prof SG Hübscher are both members of the expert panel. The final draft is currently out for consultation

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

The recently formed UKLPG (see above) is intended to provide a robust mechanism for ensuring the promotion of excellence in liver histopathology services in the UK and Ireland, across all levels of specialisation, through professional collaboration in (i) education, (ii) quality assurance and (iii) research. In addition to a chair, secretary and treasurer there are committee members leading subcommittees covering each of these three key areas. There are also representatives for paediatric liver pathology and liver transplant pathology and clinical hepatology. We also propose to recruit trainees with an interest in liver pathology

*Prof SG Hübscher (Chair) & Dr JI Wyatt (Secretary) on behalf of the Liver Subcommittee, Pathology Section, BSG.*