

**Annual Meeting of Cellular Pathology Subspecialty Advisors, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**Subspecialty Report for Liver Pathology**

Since September 2016, liver pathology activities in the UK have been developed and coordinated by the UK Liver Pathology Group (UKLPG). In addition to a chair and secretary, the UKLPG has subcommittee leads for education & training, quality assurance and research, representatives for transplantation and paediatric liver pathology and trainee representatives. Committee meetings are held every 4 months – two via teleconference, the third at the Annual Liver Pathology Update Meeting (see below).

**1. New developments and issues affecting service delivery**

The UKLPG has 110 full members, comprising the members of the National Liver Pathology EQA scheme. There is an annual subscription fee of £30, which also includes optional free membership of the British Association for the Study of Liver (BASL), the British Liver Transplant Group (BLTG) and HCC-UK. There is also associate, trainee and overseas membership for pathologists to benefit from our CPD activities without being full members of the Group.

**2. Staffing and Recruitment**

See above re members of the UKLPG. Medical liver biopsies are received by nearly all histopathology departments. One aim of the UKLPG is to provide accessible liver pathology CPD designed for non-specialist pathologists. Sub-specialisation in liver pathology is generally restricted to tertiary liver centres, which are designed for patients requiring certain interventions, such as those with acute liver failure and transplant patients. As with other smaller specialties, succession arrangements for pathologists working in tertiary referral centres can be problematic.

**3. Training**

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. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- Histopathology Workshop - Liver Pathology. Next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to run alongside the annual RCPATH course above.
- Annual Liver Pathology Update Meeting. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 in London, co-hosted with the BDIAP.
- British Liver Transplant Group Annual Meeting. Pathology “breakout sessions” (attended by pathologists and clinicians) have been held since September 2017. Next meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Glasgow.

Other postgraduate training activities include the following:

- Postgraduate training materials available online (see below) include virtual slides from >380 previous liver EQA cases and Power Point presentations from liver pathology CPD meetings referred to above. Our education subcommittee is expanding the on line training resources aimed at trainees.



- 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.

#### 4. Interpretive EQA

The National Liver Pathology EQA scheme started in 1994 and now has 110 full members; we now accept trainee members, currently 12. There are two circulations of 12 cases per year as glass slides. Cases are also available as digitised slides with special stains on line. Discussion of both circulations takes place during the annual liver pathology update meeting (see above).

#### 5. Datasets and ICCR (International Collaboration for Cancer Reporting)

The following documents published via the RCPATH are currently undergoing revision:

- Dataset for liver cancer – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published June 2012. There was a minor revision in 2017 to update to the TNM 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. The current revision will align the dataset to the ICCR Liver Dataset (see below) - we hope this will be completed in 2019.
- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published March 2014. There are initiatives from the RCP and BSG to issue liver biopsy guidance and we plan to coordinate the next revision of the RCPATH Tissue Pathways document in line with those.

The ICCR Liver Dataset provides recommendations for reporting cases of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, perihilar cholangiocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma. The dataset was published online in April 2017: <http://www.iccr-cancer.org/datasets/published-datasets/digestive-track>

A manuscript describing information in the ICCR liver dataset was published in *Histopathology* in September 2018: Burt AD, Alves V, Bedossa P, Clouston A, Guido M, Hübscher S, Kakar S, Ng I, Park YN, Reeves H, Wyatt J, Yeh MM, Ellis DW. Data set for the reporting of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, perihilar cholangiocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma: recommendations from the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR). *Histopathology*. 2018 Sep;73(3):369-385

Information concerning the constitution of the UKLPG, minutes of the UKLPG committee meetings, details of the Liver EQA Scheme and various postgraduate teaching materials can all be viewed via 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)

*Prof SG Hübscher (Chair) & Dr JI Wyatt (Secretary) on behalf of the UK Liver Pathology Group*