

Annual Meeting of Cellular Pathology Subspecialty Advisors, 4th November 2020
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 usually held 3 or 4 times/year. Several activities this year have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes cancelling the committee meeting scheduled for 24/03/2020. Meetings subsequently took place via Teams on 12/06/2020 and 18/09/2020.

1. New developments and issues affecting service delivery

The UKLPG has around 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 are also options for associate, trainee and overseas membership to allow people with an interest in liver pathology 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, but sub-specialisation in liver pathology is generally restricted to hospitals providing tertiary liver services. One aim of the UKLPG is to provide accessible liver pathology CPD designed for non-specialist pathologists. As with other smaller specialties, succession arrangements for pathologists working in tertiary referral centres can be problematic.

3. Training

Liver pathology CPD meetings have been held via Zoom this year, as follows:

- Liver transplant pathology - "Update from Banff 2019 Meeting", 7th October
- Annual Liver Pathology Update Meeting, 16th meeting will be on 5th November.

Other postgraduate training activities include the following:

- Postgraduate training materials available online (see below) include virtual slides from >390 previous liver EQA cases and Power Point presentations from liver pathology CPD meetings referred to above.
- 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 around 110 full members. There are usually two circulations of 12 cases per year as glass slides. This year it has only been



possible to have one circulation. Cases are also available as digitised slides with special stains on line. Around one third of members have opted to only use digitised slides. Discussion of EQA cases takes place during the annual liver pathology update meeting (see above). This year, a pilot scheme is being run using drop-down options rather than free text responses. It is hoped that this will reduce subjectivity in collating and marking participants' assessment of cases.

5. Datasets and ICCR

- RCPATH Dataset for histopathological reporting of liver resection specimens (including gallbladder) and liver biopsies for primary and metastatic carcinoma, 3rd edition. Submitted to College September 2020.
- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies for the investigation of medical disease and focal lesions, 3rd edition. Published October 2020.
- ICCR Liver Dataset, 2nd edition. Revisions carried out following period of open consultation, which ended in August 2020. Final version due for publication soon

6. Other Matters

Prof Stefan Hübscher has indicated that he wishes to step down as chair of UKLPG. The role of chair will be taken on by Dr Rachel Brown, with effect from 5th November 2020.

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

*Prof SG Hübscher (Chair) & Dr JI Wyatt (Secretary) on behalf of the UK Liver Pathology Group
28/10/2020*