Welcome to the last edition of the Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer newsletter for 2011.

This newsletter is intended to provide information on the project to expand and promote the use of structured pathology reporting of cancer.

Wishing you all the very best for this holiday season and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New protocols!

The RCPA Council has recently endorsed the following structured pathology reporting protocols:

- Testicular tumours
- Oral cancer

Visit the RCPA website and download a protocol or perhaps a hyperlinked guide. See more information on this below. Remember the guides are the easiest way to access the information in the protocols!

Keep an eye out for the Bladder cancer and Prostate cancer (Core Biopsy) protocols that will be available for open consultation in the new year!
Other protocols that are under way or in the planning stage are:

- Oesophageal and Gastro-oesophageal Junction cancer (both the Endoscopic resection (ER) and the Oesophagectomy and oesophago-gastrectomy specimens will be published as two separate protocols)
- Vulvar cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Adrenal gland tumours
- Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST)
- Neuroblastoma (Paediatrics)
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the conjunctiva

Haven’t visited the website yet?

If you haven’t visited the RCPA website yet – there is a wealth of information available, just click on the link below:


You get access to 14 structured pathology reporting protocols. These are grouped into categories such as gastrointestinal, and genitourinary etc for ease of access.
Click on the name of the protocol to open, you can review it online or save it locally.

Too busy to read the protocols?

Need quick information on what to report on a cancer??

Then just click on ‘Guide’ next to the protocol you are interested in to open a guide like this Prostate guide (for Radical Prostatectomy) below:

GUIDES are the easiest way to get a list of the reporting requirements and responses and they are also the best way to get access to the commentary from the protocol. Simply click on the hyperlinked standard or guideline number and the information pops up.

Below is the information which pops up when you click on the number S3.03 in the guide.
International collaboration

As a result of the success of the pilot project to deliver internationally agreed datasets for Melanoma, Lung, Endometrium and Prostate (Radical Prostatectomy) the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) committee agreed to seek funding and a governance model to support future efforts.

Seeking an appropriate governance structure, one that is truly international and which can provide both the support and influence to assist the project, was deemed the highest priority. Since then, there has been a flurry of activity identifying organisations and speaking to individuals who can further this effort which has lead to some very promising opportunities which hopefully will bear fruit in the next few months.

To further this opportunity and to continue the momentum to date the ICCR are proposing a second pilot consisting of the development of a cancer dataset with an expanded collaborative group beyond the initial four countries. The ICCR would also like to ensure acceptance of the existing four developed protocols by undertaking an international consultation to ratify the outcomes.

The work on the international cancer datasets has highlighted a number of common themes and issues including development of standard information models and the binding of terminologies such as LOINC or SNOMED CT to ensure accuracy of information and ease of
messaging between systems. This ties in well with the Pathology Units and Terminology Standardisation (PUTS) Project which is currently underway at the college.

Also of interest is the common implementation issues the ICCR countries face. The links developed through this international work might offer some opportunities in this area in the coming months.

**Structured pathology in the news!**

Several articles have been published in *Pathology*, the official journal of the RCPA, which are of interest to structured pathology reporting of cancer. Members can log on to the RCPA website and access the Pathology journal to review articles of interest such as:

1. Populating structured reports automatically
   (This article is relevant to our story “Wanted: colorectal cancer reports” below)


3. Surgical pathology reporting at the crossroads: beyond synoptic reporting.


5. Optimising the management of soft tissue tumours

**Wanted: colorectal cancer reports**

We are seeking to accumulate a reasonable bundle of colorectal cancer reports to enable an audit on the use of Structured Pathology Reporting.

Professor Jon Patrick of the University of Sydney will be undertaking an audit using his Natural Language Processing (NLP) methodology to evaluate both the use of and the completeness of colorectal cancer reports as compared to the published protocols.

At this stage the reports submitted will be used to:
   a) define the methodology for assessing reports and gain insight into the accuracy of the results, and
   b) to establish an Australasian baseline against which we can assess progress in the future.

We are not measuring performance or use at an individual laboratory level.
It would be most helpful if you could send in a de-identified colorectal cancer report to include in the audit. Send your reports to Meagan Judge at MeaganJ@RCPA.EDU.AU.

Brain teaser

Here’s something to relax with over the holidays.......

In a street there are 5 houses, painted 5 different colours. In each lives a person of a different nationality. The five home owners each drink a different beverage, smokes a different brand of cigar and keeps a different pet.

The question.....**who keeps the fish?**

HINTS:
1. The Brit lives in the red house
2. The Swede has a dog
3. The Dane drinks tea
4. The green house is on the left of the white house
5. The owner of the green house drinks coffee
6. The person who smokes Pall Mall has birds
7. The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhills
8. The man living in the centre house drinks milk
9. The Norwegian lives in the first house
10. The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who has cats
11. The man who has horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhills
12. The man who smokes Blue Master drinks beer
13. The German smokes Prince
14. The Norwegian lives next to the blue house
15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbor who drinks water

It is said that Albert Einstein wrote this riddle in the early 20th century and stated that 98% of the population would not be able to solve it. (To find out the answer email Meagan at MeaganJ@RCPA.EDU.AU or search google!).

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You have received this message because you are listed as a stakeholder of the national structured pathology reporting project. If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please email: MeaganJ@RCPA.EDU.AU