

Final Report – RCPA Foundation Travel Grant

Dr Marcus Dabner

Outline:

From May 2015 to May 2016 I was an Honorary Visiting Fellow in the UCLH network of hospitals in London, England. My time was divided between the UCL Division of Neuropathology/National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) and the Haematopathology service at University College London Hospital (UCLH). Formal supervision was provided by Prof Sebastian Brandner (NHNN) and Prof Teresa Marafioti (UCLH), alongside other pathologists from both departments. The purpose of this year was to gain subspecialty expertise in histopathology and molecular pathology in these areas, working alongside acknowledged international experts in these areas.

Outcomes:

The time spent in London enabled me to greatly expand my knowledge and skills in the reporting of surgical neuropathology and haematopathology specimens and gain valuable experience in use of molecular techniques. This included both workplace based and course based training as noted below. I was able to utilise and further develop my teaching skills, participating in medical student and registrar teaching. I also formed valuable links with major teaching departments and professional relationships with pathologists from a number of different countries.

After returning to Australia I was able to take a lead role in my department at St John of God Pathology (now Australian Clinical Laboratories) in these subspecialties, providing support to my colleagues and improving the diagnostic service provided. I have subsequently moved into a clinical academic role dividing my time between a role as Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Australia and consultant pathologist at PathWest, with surgical neuropathology as one of my core specialty areas.

Detail of activities undertaken:

Reporting and diagnostic activities

NHNN

- Direct reporting of 670 surgical neuropathology cases including brain tumours, pituitary cases and spinal/skull base specimens.
- Direct reporting of 240 CSF cytology specimens.
- Review of a further 2100 cases as part of unit audit and QA activities and private study.
- Reviewing cases and presented at 41 MDTs (neuro-oncology, spinal, pituitary, peripheral nerve)
- Participating in 'cut up' of dementia cases at UCL brain bank under supervision of Prof Janice Holton.
- Participating in reporting of neuropathology molecular testing using FISH, PCR and illumina microarray.

- Reviewing archival cases of interesting medical neuropathology cases including prion, neurodegenerative and neuromuscular diseases.

UCLH

- Direct reporting of 150 lymph node core and excision biopsies and 50 bone marrow trephines.
- Review of a further 300 lymph node core and excision biopsies for MDT meetings and routine audit.
- Participation at 24 bone marrow review meetings, 12 leukaemia MDT meetings and 20 lymphoma MDT meetings.

Teaching and Learning Activities:

- Provided four medical student tutorials per semester to UCL students.
- Formal presentation at NHNN Gower's Round (1 presentation) and neurology CPC's (2 presentations) to neurology and neurosurgical registrars and house officers.
- Participation in weekly haematopathology registrar tutorials and attendance at other teaching sessions including general pathology, dermatopathology and cytology.
- Provided support to visiting fellows and pathologists from a number of other countries (Lebanon, Russia, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Spain) while at NHNN.

Research and quality activities:

- Assisted in setting up a project utilising digital image analysis for Ki-67 in glioblastoma. This project is still ongoing (delayed due to technical issues with image analysis) and has been handed over to a UCL masters student.
- As part of this project I undertook an audit of Ki-67 reporting (with review of a selected group of 30 cases representing a range of glioma grades) demonstrating that there was good inter-observer reproducibility for very low (<5%) and high (>80%) assessment of Ki-67 but only poor to fair reproducibility for rates between these figures. This raises significant issues in terms of determining the 'gold standard' for any automated assessment.
- One case report in progress, pending patient follow-up.

Attendance at conferences

- 117th meeting of the British Neuropathological Society, London, March 2016
- 4th Symposium on Molecular Pathology in Oncology, London, March 2016
- Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland Winter Meeting 2016, London, January 2016
- 14th London Lymphoma Forum – Follicular Lymphoma, November 2015
- Post ICML – Lugano Lymphoma Highlights, London, June 2015

Attendance at courses

- BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day, London, March 2016
- British Neuropathological Society Summer School, London, March 2016
- Gynaecological Pathology - putting virtual microscopy to the test, Royal College of Pathologists, London, January 2016
- Best Practice in Neurology, London, November 2015

- National Oncology Workshop, Royal Marsden Hospital, London, November 2015
- The St Mary's Course in Histopathology of the Bone Marrow, London, September 2015
- 4th Keele Course on CNS Inflammation, United Kingdom, September 2015

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the RCPA foundation in assisting me in undertaking this valuable professional development activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Dabner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Marcus Dabner MBBS(Hons), BMedSci(Hons), MEd, FRCPA

Lay Summary – RCPA Foundation Travel Grant

As an RCPA Foundation Travel Grant recipient I undertook a 12 month Honorary Visiting Fellowship in the UCLH network of hospitals in London, England. My time was divided between the UCL Division of Neuropathology/National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) and University College London Hospital (UCLH). The purpose of this year was to gain expertise in diagnosis of diseases of the lymph nodes, brain and nervous system, working alongside acknowledged international experts in these areas.

The time spent in London enabled me to greatly expand my knowledge and skills, particularly in the diagnosis of brain tumours and lymphomas, and gain valuable experience in use of molecular pathology techniques. I attended a number of conferences and formal courses. I was able to utilise and further develop my teaching skills, participating in medical student and registrar teaching. I also formed valuable links with major teaching departments and professional relationships with pathologists from a number of different countries and participated in research and audit activities.

On returning to Australia I was able to take a lead role in my department in these subspecialties. I have subsequently moved into a clinical academic role dividing my time between a role as Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Australia and consultant pathologist at PathWest.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the RCPA foundation in assisting me in undertaking this valuable professional development activity.



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