



Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Newsletter

Issue 40 - December 2019



Seasons greetings!

Welcome to Edition 40 of the Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer newsletter. This newsletter is intended to provide information on the project to expand and promote the use of structured pathology reporting of cancer.

Highlights in this issue:

- Happy 10 year anniversary SPRC
- 2019 Survey highlights
- Protocol development update
- Interview with A/Prof Fiona Bonar

PDF versions of this newsletter are available from the [structured pathology website](#).

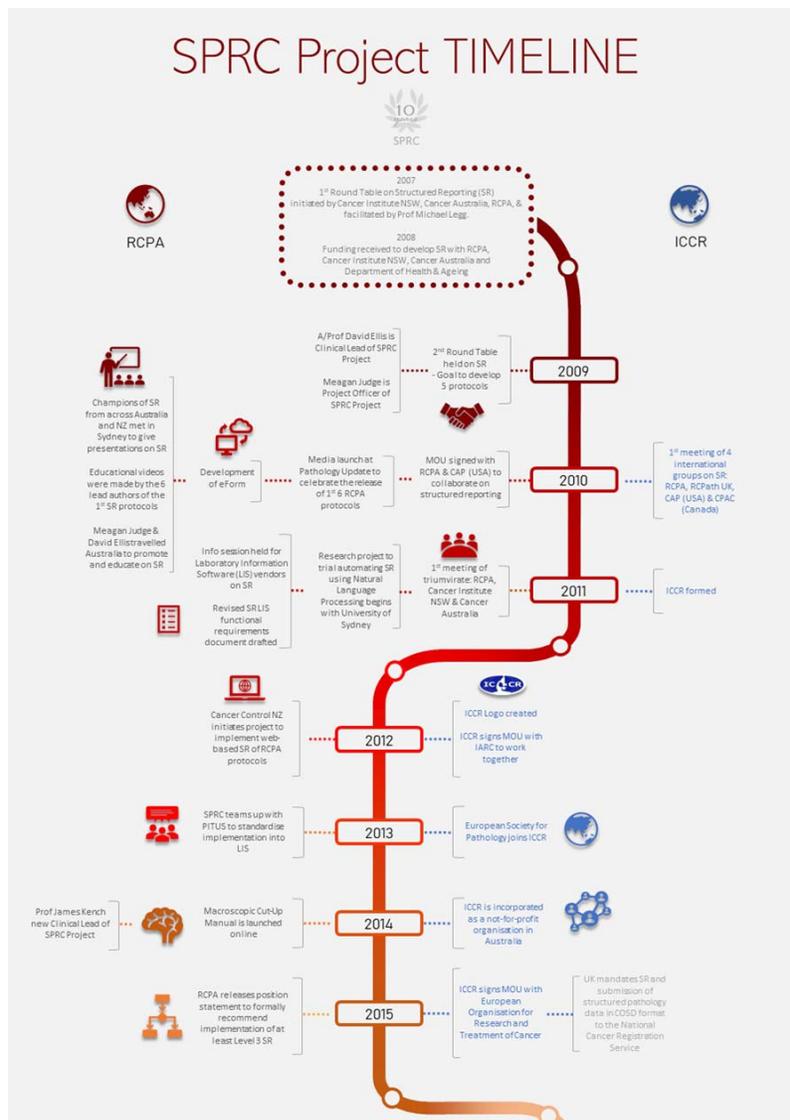
Celebrating

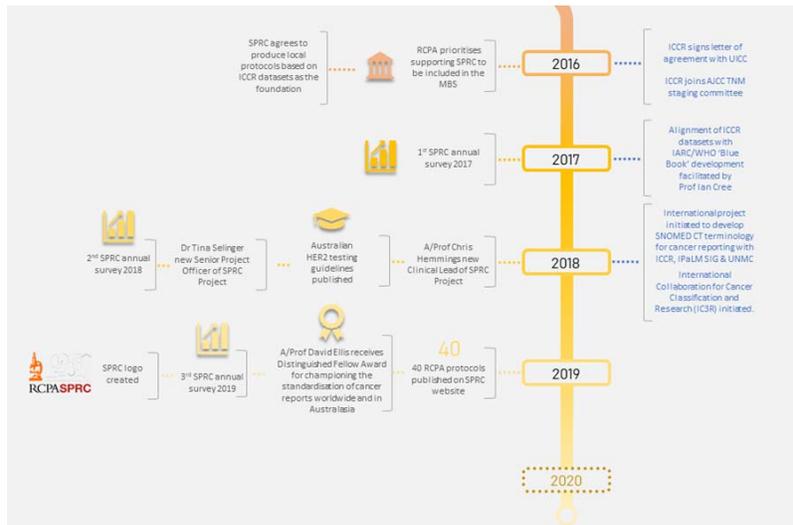


SPRC is 10!

As we move into 2020, it is the 10 year anniversary of the SPRC Project. To celebrate the achievements over the last 10 years, a graphical timeline commemorating the Project milestones, has been created. To view the PDF version, please click [here](#), or use the button below.

View PDF



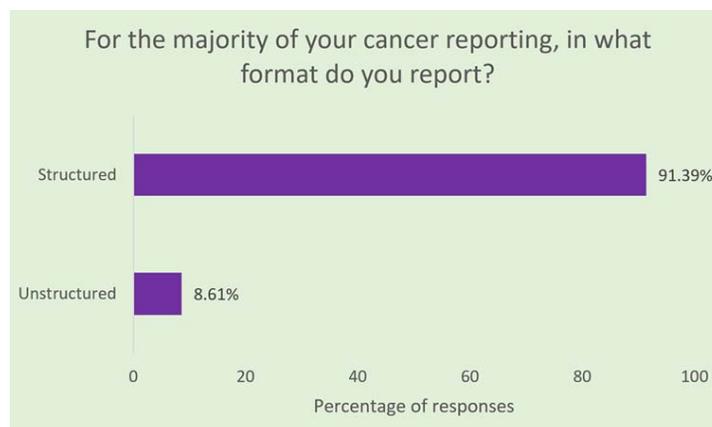


Thank you to all that responded to the SPRC Survey

Thank you to all that participated in the 2019 SPRC Survey. We saw a 6% increase in responses this year compared with last year.

Highlights from the survey:

- A 10% increase has been observed in the preference to use structured reporting.
- 9 major laboratories across 4 states of Australia have indicated they currently have the capacity to report at the highest level of structured reporting.
- 27% of pathologists surveyed indicated their laboratory is currently planning to upgrade their LIS (up 13% compared with 2018).



New protocols near to publication

The final set of 7 Head & Neck protocols:

- Nodal excisions and neck dissections 1st edition
- Ear and temporal bone tumours 1st edition
- Larynx, hypopharynx and trachea 1st edition
- Carcinomas of the oral cavity 2nd edition
- Malignant odontogenic tumours 1st edition
- Carcinomas of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses 1st edition
- Carcinomas of the nasopharynx and oropharynx 1st edition

and

- Endometrial cancer 2nd edition protocol

are very close to publication. Look out for them on the [SPRC website](#) in the coming weeks.



WHO Classification of Breast Tumours 5th Edition – now available

The 5th Edition Breast Tumours Blue Book has recently been [published](#) in print format

This authoritative reference book provides essential international standards for pathologists as well as anyone involved in the care of patients with breast cancer or in breast cancer research.





New Gastrointestinal cancer committee Chair

The Chair of the Gastrointestinal committee – Dr Ian Brown – has recently stepped down from the role. The Structured Pathology Reporting team would like to extend a very warm thank you to Dr Brown, for your invaluable contribution.

Taking on the position, is Professor Priyanthi Kumarasinghe, who is a consultant pathologist and clinical professor at PathWest QEII Medical Centre and University of Western Australia in Perth. Professor Kumarasinghe has been Chair and an active member of several authoring committees, for Gastric, Oesophageal and Thyroid cytology structured reporting protocols.

We greatly appreciate having such a well respected contributor take the reins as Chair for this important work.



ICCR progress

The International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) 2nd edition of the Invasive melanoma dataset is now published and available to [download](#).

The ICCR is close to publishing new datasets for Merkel Cell and Endocrine neoplasms. In addition, datasets for Carcinomas of the Exocrine Pancreas, Colorectal Cancer & Colorectal Excisional Biopsy (Polypectomy) will also be available for public consultation very soon.

Check the [ICCR website](#) for details over the coming

weeks.



Recent peer reviewed scientific publications

Recent Structured Reporting of Pathology peer reviewed scientific publications:

- [Dataset for the reporting of urinary tract carcinoma - biopsy and transurethral resection specimen: recommendations from the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting \(ICCR\)](#). Varma M, et al. Mod Pathol. 2019 Nov
- [Data Set for the Reporting of Carcinoma of the Renal Pelvis and Ureter-Nephroureterectomy and Ureterectomy Specimens: Recommendations From the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting \(ICCR\)](#). Samaratunga H, et al. Am J Surg Pathol. 2019 Oct



Interview with Adjunct Professor Fiona Bonar OAM

One of Australasia's most respected anatomical pathologists is Adjunct Professor Fiona Bonar – who first trained in Ireland as a physician and holds diplomas in paediatrics and obstetrics. Fiona then trained as a

pathologist in Dublin, and continued her training in New York, before migrating to Australia.

Fiona has a formidable list of contributions and memberships, and has gained widespread recognition for her work in the histopathology of bones and joints in particular. Recently, I was lucky enough to interview Fiona, to find out a bit more about her, and some insights she has found useful for diagnostic pathology.

Where do you currently work?

Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, Macquarie Park, Australia.

Can you share an interesting non-pathology fact about you?

I once owned an old terraced house in Dublin in a very old street, commonly used in TV programmes and movies set in the late 1800s and early 1900s. My house featured in one of the Spice Girls music videos, and was the main house featured in the movie Angela's Ashes (that speaks to its grandeur??!!!).

Can you share an interesting or memorable case you have reported?

This is not a pathology case, but a particularly memorable medical case for me. Many years ago, I was doing a locum for my brother as a general practitioner in a remote area in the north west of Ireland. A 9 year old boy had measles, and developed coma due to measles encephalitis. I had to maintain resuscitation until an army helicopter could be deployed, which took about an hour and a half. Fortunately, he survived. Twenty-five years later, a fine healthy looking man introduced himself to me at my dads' funeral, and thanked me. It was so gracious of him, and lovely for me.

Do you have any tips or tricks that you find useful for reporting?

Scanning power is an essential start to every case. I never proceed until I have an overview, and often elucidate the likely differential, prior to moving to a higher

power.

Do you have any favourite resources you like to use to stay on top of recent guidelines and evidence?

I mostly keep an eye on PubMed.

Do you have a favourite course or conference that you would like to attend or have attended?

My favourite conference every year is the International Skeletal Society Conference. I love this meeting because every year I catch up with colleagues with similar interests. We discuss around 50 weird and interesting bone and soft tissue cases in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

What advice would you give early career pathologists?

Pay attention to the macroscopic findings. Learn to know what normal tissue and the normal variants of a specific disease are. Use your scanning lens and never rush to high power!

If money was no object, what pathology industry problem would you like to see solved?

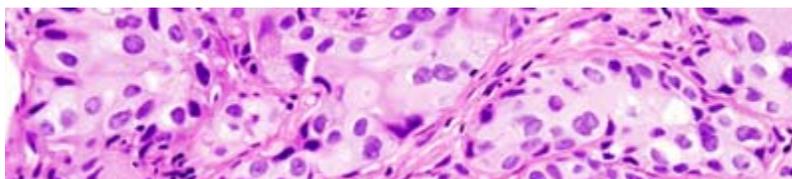
Improve the availability of molecular testing and gene sequencing.

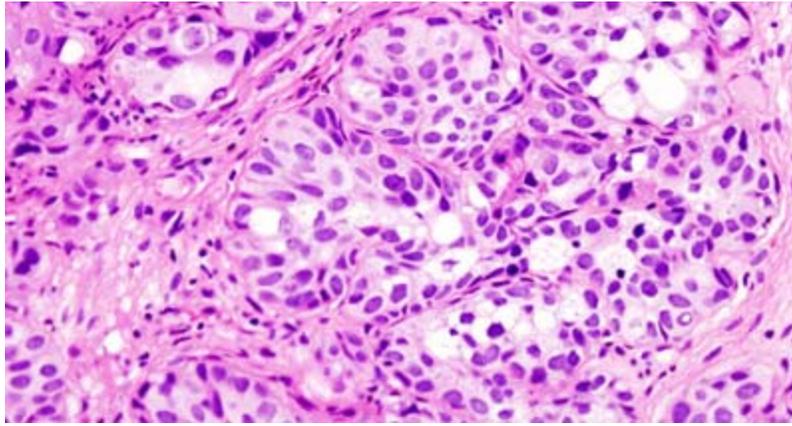
Who else would you like to see answer these questions?

Dominic Spagnolo

Do you have an interesting case image?

Send in your interesting case image to the SPRC newsletter - entertain or educate your peers!





Bladder urothelial carcinoma, H&E. Source: [KGH](#)

“SPRC is a great resource. Much appreciated.”

2019 SPRC Survey responder

This SPRC Project is evolving and looking to the future. We hope to serve the needs of the pathology community, by providing the very best multi-disciplinary evidence-based structured reporting resources for promoting best practice pathology. Please share your ideas on how to improve Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer resources, by contacting: structuredpathology@rcpa.edu.au

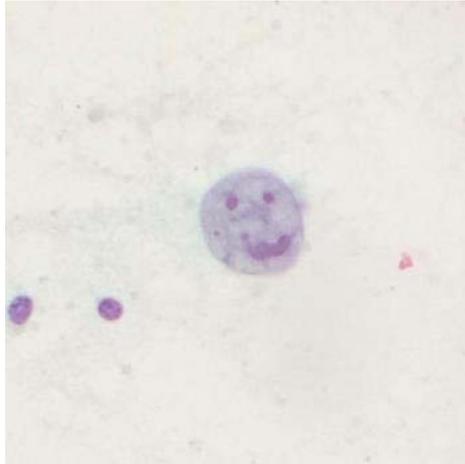


Brain teaser

You are standing in front of a room with one lightbulb inside of it. You cannot see if it is on or off. Outside the room there are 3 switches in the off positions. You may turn the switches any way you want to. You stop turning the switches, enter the room and know which switch controls the lightbulb. How?

Good luck!

(To find out the answer, email Tina at structuredpathology@rcpa.edu.au)



Smiling cytology carcinoma cell. Source: Dr Jessica Reagh



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