



National Pathology Week

2–8 November 2009

Event title	What Pathologists Really Do
Venue	Laboratories, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Target audience	Year 12 and above
Objectives	To demonstrate the role of pathology to potential medical and biomedical science applicants
Age range	16+ years
How was the event advertised?	Using a local Department of Education initiative that arranges work placements for students, liaising with local careers teachers and schools
Number attending	70 students (spread over 5 days)
Booking required?	Yes
Length of event	3 hours (each afternoon of National Pathology Week)
Refreshments provided?	No
Equipment needed	Working lab, formalin fixed specimens (with consent for use), trays, aprons, gloves. In micro: selection of plated organisms to demonstrate. In haematology: range of blood smears for microscopy
People needed	Microbiologist, haematologist and virologist to explain their individual role, BMS staff to demonstrate processing in tissue path, haematology and microbiology MTO in mortuary to help set up specimens for the organ demonstration
Printed material used	Pack made up for each student with NPW handouts, choices of careers in pathology (from RCPATH website), speciality specific information
Room set up	Space required for 'Guess the Organ' competition - trays laid out with specimens in an appropriate down drafted work area, otherwise a general tour around the labs
Event programme	'Meet and greet' at reception, tour of tissue pathology, explanation of specimen dissection, demonstration by BMS of section preparation (and allow couple of students a chance), demo of quick H&E stain (allow student a go), 'Guess the Organ': range of surgical resections and autopsy based cases: tour round haematology, virology, microbiology and clinical chemistry, interspersed by a short talk each day from a clinician (paediatric surgery, oncology etc depending on availability) to explain how they use the lab
Possible variations	Depends on labs and personnel available to visit
What did the audience	Getting a chance to handle the tissues and organs Seeing plated samples in microbiology - pseudomonas

particularly like?	and fungi in particular!
What surprised the audience?	What organs and tissues look and feel like How much work goes on behind the scenes in hospital Seeing team work in action – they didn't realise we have a close working relationship with clinical colleagues Microbiologists doing ward rounds
What else would the audience have liked?	More time in tissue pathology and microbiology - these were the two favourite areas
How much preparation was involved?	Choosing suitable specimens with appropriate consent, logistics of arranging personnel to be present at right time and place Organising the students attachments was done by the Dept of Education group - the students were required to sign indemnity and confidentiality agreements prior to visiting The places were offered to preferentially to those schools who had booked a careers talk, as the careers talk acted as an introduction to the day
Any other comments?	Would need more than one member of staff to be involved in escorting the students - contingency plans needed for fainters (rooms set aside, a helper on hand to look after them)
Images	
For more information please contact	Caroline Gannon Department of Histopathology Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast BT12 6BA caroline.gannon@belfasttrust.hscni.net