



## National Pathology Week

2–8 November 2009

Event title	Pathology Skills Workshop
Venue	Pathology laboratories, Royal United Hospital, Bath
Target audience	Year 12 and 13 students taking science subjects and considering a career in science
Objectives	To provide an insight into the work of an NHS pathology laboratory To introduce some of the techniques and procedures used to diagnose and monitor disease To discuss scientific careers in the NHS
Age range	16-18 years
How was the event advertised?	Letter of invitation sent to all Heads of Science in local secondary schools.
Number attending	25
Booking required?	Yes
Length of event	4 hours (9am – 1pm)
Refreshments provided?	Yes – tea, coffee, juice, biscuits
Equipment needed	Slide projector for introductory talk and careers presentation, other equipment required would vary depending on the types of activities undertaken.
People needed	Again, depends on the activities that would be undertaken. We needed about 10 staff to manage the whole morning (at least 2 members of staff per group and really needed more than this to help with the practical sessions).
Printed material used	Yes – we provided a participants' pack of information, including a sheet on health and safety, a timetable for the activities, promotional material from the College, careers in pathology booklet, and a list of useful website addresses.
Room set up	Clean room with chairs in rows and slide projector (we used this as a base for the students so they were able to leave coats and bags in a secure place). Laboratory space, depending on activities done. We used two separate laboratory areas, away from any part

	of the lab where patients' specimens were being handled, so as not to interfere with the routine work and to maintain confidentiality.
Event programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome, introductions, health and safety brief</li> <li>2. Practical work. This was split into three lab-based sessions and one presentation (with a break for coffee in the middle of the morning): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haematology – cases, including Epstein-Barr infection</li> <li>• Biochemistry – renal calculi analysis, standard curve for serum protein measurement</li> <li>• Microbiology – cases, microscopy work</li> <li>• Histology – presentation on histology/cytology including examples of prepared tissue samples</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Careers presentation, opportunity for questions, completion of feedback forms</li> </ol>
Possible variations	These activities can be changed according to local requirements/availability of staff and facilities.
What did the audience particularly like?	They particularly enjoyed the hands-on practical work, especially the calculi analysis and making a standard curve using a spectrophotometer.
What surprised the audience?	The variety of work done in pathology labs, the range of career opportunities available.
What else would the audience have liked?	More hands-on practicals! There is a limit to what is safe to do with students, however, and what can be achieved in the time available.
How much preparation was involved?	A lot of organisation was required to make this a success, including making contact with the schools, dealing with the registration and general administration/housekeeping, developing the activities to ensure that they were as 'foolproof' as possible, preparing risk assessments, preparing handouts. It was essential to have a committed and enthusiastic team of individuals who were able to put in the necessary preparation.
Any other comments?	It's a great way of raising the profile of the laboratory with local schools.
Images	
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