



Dear members,

Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training was born!

This document was prepared by the Subcommittee on Postgraduate Education under the Medical Education Committee of the Malaysian Medical Council. It was recently approved by the Council in June 2019. These standards were developed in compliance to the requirements of the Medical (Amendment) Act 2012 and its regulations. They are general in nature and each discipline will develop discipline-specific standards in conformity with these general standards, which will be reviewed periodically. The purpose is to govern the quality of training, supervision and assessment of medical specialists in Malaysia. These standards are applicable to all training programmes for medical practitioners to enable them to be registered in the Specialist Register of the Malaysian Medical Council.

There are a lot of works ahead for all the specialist disciplines listed in the Specialist Register. For the new disciplines yet to be registered such as genetic pathology and immunopathology, or those in development such as paediatric & perinatal pathology, renal pathology, stem cell medicine, haemostasis medicine, and lymph node pathology, it is time to draw up the discipline-specific standards and later formulate the respective curriculum by the training body. As a rule, all subspecialties would cover a period of three years of training.

For existing specialties – anatomical pathology, haematology, medical microbiology, chemical pathology, forensic pathology and transfusion medicine, specialty committees of the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, should work with the MMC Education Subcommittees to develop the discipline-specific standards. All existing curricula (Professional Masters) would have to be reviewed based on the new disciplined- specific standards.

A new journey has just begun!

Nobel Prize Stem Cells from Stored Cord Blood

Increasingly haplo-identical haemopoietic stem cell transplantation is being carried out in transplant centres all over the World, whether for kids or adults. Matched unrelated transplants or cord-blood transplants are on the decline. This development has threatened the continued existence of public cord blood banks. Operators of these blood banks are beginning to develop new strategies to stay relevant in the rapidly evolving field. Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) are god-sent. In 2015, an important article was published in Stem Cell Reports (Elsevier) announcing, for the first time, the availability of cGMP-manufactured human induced pluripotent stem cells (in master cell banks) – US FDA compliant, for pre-clinical and clinical applications, by Dr Mahendra Rao and associates.



CPathAMM NEWSLETTER

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Following this, workers in this field especially those in cord blood bank are beginning to explore making iPSCs from the stored cord blood which are rich in haemopoietic stem cells. An example of such an effort was from Bone Marrow Donor Institute (BMDI) Cord Blood Bank of the Royal Children's Hospital of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Led by Dr. Ngaire J Elwood, it has established with funding from the Australian Government an Australian bank of GMP standard cord blood-derived iPSCs to facilitate clinical research and therapy. The overall aim is to provide iPSC lines made from donor cells with the most commonly identified homozygous haplotypes to cover most of the population of a specific region. iPSC lines so established could then be developed into desired cell types for research and therapy. For example, neural stem cells could be developed from the iPSC to treat neurodegenerative disorders or macular degeneration. Relevant to the blood bank, red cells and platelets could be developed for blood transfusion purposes. Immune cells such as dendritic cells and NK cells could also be derived from the iPSC for cancer immunotherapy. The list is endless.....

This trend has opened up new opportunities to public as well as private cord blood banks in Malaysia. We eagerly await this development in our local cord blood banks!

With best wishes,
Emeritus Professor Dr SK Cheong,
President,
30th June 2019

Digital Haemato-Morphology Workshop 2019
University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Sungai Long Campus
15th June, 2019

UTAR, Sungai Long 15th June, 2019 - The Malaysian College Quality Assurance Scheme (McQAS) and UTAR co-organised a one-day workshop, with the theme “Digital Haemato-Morphology Workshop” at UTAR Sungai Long campus. The workshop featured the evaluation of peripheral blood film and bone marrow smears on real cases using visual display screens. With the advancement of technology, whole slide imaging (WSI) converts glass slides to digital images. A total of 42 participants had hands-on experience to view glass slides on screen like navigating Google Maps to make diagnosis and also to explore McQAS’ manual differential count external quality assurance (EQA) module.

Three consultant haematologists were invited to share their diagnostic experiences during the workshop. The list of speakers and their topic of presentations were as follows:

- White blood cells disorders by Assoc. Prof. Dr Leong Chooi Fun
- Darwin’s Natural Selection & Inherited Disorders by Emeritus Prof. Dr Cheong Soon Keng
- Neonatal and Paediatric Haematology by Dr. Mimi Aziz
- Haematology Potpourri by Emeritus Prof. Dr Cheong Soon Keng

Please visit the following website for further information regarding the workshop and McQAS EQA module:

<https://www.mcqas.com/>



(Report prepared by Dr Tan Yuen Fen)



International Pathology Day Malaysia 2018

National Cancer Institute, Putrajaya

26-27 November 2018

International Pathology Day Malaysia 2018 with the theme “Pathology & Cancer” was successfully held at National Cancer Institute, Putrajaya from 26th - 27th November 2018. The event was officiated by YBhg Dato’ Hj Azman bin Abu Bakar, Deputy Director-General of Health (Medicine), Malaysia. This event was co-organised by National Pathology Service, Ministry of Health and National Cancer Institute with the help from College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia, International Academy of Pathology Malaysian Division and Medical Specialist Society of Putrajaya Hospital.

A total of 202 delegates from both government and private sectors attended the 2-day program. The objective of the event was to enhance knowledge on the importance of pathology services in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Five scientific topics were covered in this event; 1) Pathology - Future Direction in Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis & Management; 2) Molecular Pathology and Cancer; 3) Role of Viruses & Cancer Pathogenesis; 4) Facts and Myths in Haematological Malignancies (Blood Cancer); and 5) Tumour Markers in Non-Blood Specimen.

Besides the interesting seminar, the event also included a school holiday pathology camp on the 26th November 2018 in Putrajaya Hospital Auditorium. The program was co-organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia, Perbadanan Putrajaya, Local Agenda 21 and SMK Putrajaya Presint 16(1) Putrajaya. A total of 100 students from schools around Putrajaya attended the program.

Another highlight of the event was the public forum on health, which was held on the 26th November 2018. The topic of the forum was “Handling Cancer Challenges in the Globalization Era”. Among the panelists for the forum were Motivation Consultant, Tuan Hj Hushim bin Salleh, and nutritionist, Puan Noraini bt Samwil.

The event was a tremendous success and during an interview with YBhg Dato’ Hj Azman bin Abu Bakar, he mentioned that the nation needs more pathologists, who are regarded as the ‘pulse’ in the medical services in Malaysia.



The event was officiated by YBhg Dato' Hj Azman bin Abu Bakar, Deputy Director-General of Health (Medicine), Malaysia. (Picture on the left was taken from Utusan Online)



Speakers and organising committees of the International Pathology Day Malaysia 2018.



ANNOUNCEMENT

National Specialist Register (NSR) Evaluation Subcommittees

CPath members had been appointed by the Director-General of Health to the above subcommittees:

- **General Pathology:** i. Professor Dr. Zamberi Sekawi ii. Dr. Arni Talib iii. Datin Dr. Baizurah Mohd Hussain iv. Dr. Salbiah Nawawi
- **Anatomical Pathology:** i. Professor Dr. Cheah Phaik Leng ii. Dr. Pathmanathan Rajadurai iii. Dr. Mukarramah Che Ayob iv. Dr. Wan Azura Wan Yaacob v. Associate Professor Dr. Tan Geok Chin
- **Chemical Pathology:** i. Datin Dr. Baizurah Mohd Hussain ii. Professor Dr. Hapizah Mohd Nawawi Information 4 iii. Dr. Tengku Norita iv. Dr. Hanita Othman v. Dr. Nor'ashikin Othman
- **Forensic Pathology:** i. Dr. Mohd Shah Mahmood ii. Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Mohd Nor iii. Dr. Nurliza Abdullah iv. Professor Dr. Shahrom Abdul Wahid
- **Haematology:** i. Emeritus Professor Dr. Cheong Soon Keng ii. Associate Professor Dr. Leong Chooi Fun iii. Dr. Nik Rus Mazeni Nik Yusof iv. Dr. Raudhawati Osman v. Dr. Eusni Rahayu Mohd Tohit
- **Medical Microbiology:** i. Professor Dr. Yasmin Abdul Malik ii. Tan Sri Dr. Jegathesan Manikavasagam iii. Professor Dr. Ariza Adnan iv. Dr. Sahlawati Mustakim v. Dr. Salmah Idris
- **Transfusion Medicine:** i. Dr. Noryati Abu Amin ii. Dr. Yasmin Ayob iii. Dr. Sabariah Mohd Noor iv. Dr. Soo Peng Yen v. Associate Professor Dr. Veera Sekaran V. Nadarajah

CPath Specialty Committees

CPath Council has established the following Specialty Committees to promote the respective specialty and organize activities related to the specialty. All specialty committees are encouraged to work with other related specialty associations, national or international branches, to promote the respective specialty. Merger to form a Chapter within CPath is also encouraged.

- **Forensic Pathology** - Advisors : Dr Shahidan Md Noor, Dr Nurliza Abdullah; Chairperson : Dr Khairul Anuar Zainun; Secretary : Dr Mohd Aznool Haidy Ahsorori; Committee Members : Dr Siew Sheue Feng, Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Mohd Nor
- **Medical Microbiology** - Advisors : Professor Dr. Yasmin A Malik, Professor Datin Dr. Ilina Isahak; Chairperson : Associate Professor Dr. Zetti Zainol Rashid; Secretary : Associate Professor Dr. Nurul Azmawati Mohamed; Committee Members : Professor Dr. Ariza Adnan, Associate Professor Dr. Syafinaz Amin Nordin, Associate Professor Dr. Azian Harun
- **Genetic Pathology** - Advisor: Professor Dr. Zilfalil Alwi, Chairperson: Dr. Roziana Ariffin; Vice Chairperson: Dr. Chin Loi Khim; Honorary Secretary: Dr. Nazihah Mohd Yunus; Vice Secretary: Dr. Rose Adzrianee Adnan; Treasurer: Dr. Hashima Hashim; Vice Treasurer: Dr. Ruzi Hamimi Razali.

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- **Chemical Pathology** - Advisor: Professor Dr. Yap Sook Fun; Chairperson: Dr. Tengku Norita Tengku Yazid; Secretary: Dr. Hanisah Hamid; Committee Members: Dr. Julia Omar, Dr. Nor'Ashikin Othman, Dr. Ana Daliela Masiman, Dr. Dian Nasriana Nasruddin.
- **Haematology** - Advisor: Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman; Chairperson: Dr. Tang Yee Loong; Secretary: Dr. Eusni Rahayu Mohd Tohit; Committee Members: Dr. Leong Chooi Fun, Associate Professor Dr. N. Veera Sekaran A/L V. Nadarajan.
- **Anatomic Pathology** - Advisor: Professor Datuk Dr. Looi Lai Meng; Chairperson: Dr. Arni Talib; Vice chairperson: Dr. Lee Bang Rom; Secretary: Dr. Suria Hayati Md Pauzi; Treasurer: Dr. Natasha Chew Bee See; Committee Members: Dr Razmin Ghazali, Dr. Fauzah Abd Ghani, Associate Professor Dr. Nor Salmah Abu Bakar.
- **Transfusion Medicine** - Advisors: Dato' Dr. Yasmin Ayob, Dato' Dr. Faraizah Abdul Karim, Dr. Afifah Hj Hassan; Chairperson: Dr. Noryati Abu Amin; Secretary: Dr. Ong Chiew Ping; Committee Members: Dr. Zanariah Kassim, Dr. Christina Lee Lai Ling, Dr. Shahnaz Irwani Sabri.

CPath Special Interest Group

CPath also encourages the formation of special interest group to promote subspecialty activities and research. The following special interest groups had been formed with the champions as listed below:

Haemostasis Medicine: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurasyikin Yusof (UKMMC)

Renal Pathology: Prof. Dr. Cheah Phaik Leng (UMMC)

Stem Cell and Cell-Based Therapy: Dr. Mimi Azura Aziz (Hospital Kuala Lumpur)

Lymph Node Pathology - Prof. Dr. Noraidah Masir (Prince Court Medical Centre)

CPath Specialty Chapter

In line with the policy of the Academy of Medicine Council, CPath endorsed the formation of a **Chapter of Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology** with its Pro-Tem Committee as follows:

Chairperson : Prof. Dr. Hayati Abd Rahman

Vice Chairperson : Dr. Arni Talib

Secretary : Dr. Siah Hui Hui

Treasurer : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Geok Chin

Committee members : Dr. Khairul Anuar Zainun, Dr Nur Ayutimasery Abdullah, Dr. Nur Syahrina Rahim, Dr. Sellymiah Adzman, Dr Wong Yin Ping



McQAS

Malaysian College Quality Assurance Scheme

Welcome to Malaysian Digital EQAP!

Manual eBlood Film Differential Count (eBFDC)

Coming soon:

- *Manual eBone Marrow Differential Count (eBMDC)*
- *eBlood Film Morphology (eBFM)*
- *ePaediatric Morphology (ePM)*
- *eBone Marrow Morphology (eBMM)*
- *eBlood Film for Malarial Parasite (eBFMP)*

Visit us today!!!

<http://www.mcqas.com>

MCPATH QAP SDN BHD (102288-D)



Quality Assurance Progress

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