

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

Section of Pathology

The Section of Pathology of the Manchester Medical Society held its last meeting of the current session jointly with the Royal College of Pathologists North West Regional Council. It took the form of a half-day symposium and was held on **Wednesday 18th April 2007** at **The Manchester Dental Education Centre (MANDEC), University of Manchester.**

Dr E W Benbow, President of the Section of Pathology, and Dr L N Sandle, Chairman of the North West Regional Council, chaired the symposium which commenced at 1.30 pm with lunch beforehand at 12.30 pm.

The symposium commenced with a question and answer session with the President of The Royal College of Pathologists, **Professor Adrian Newland** who then gave a lecture entitled:-

“Who should train haematologists?”

Professor Newland described the interesting position of trainees in haematology, who require experience of both clinical and laboratory practice, with the opportunities and threats inherent in such training.

Two further speakers spoke to the audience as follows:-

Dr Alan Jones

(Clinical Director of laboratory Medicine, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust)

“Chemical pathology or metabolic medicine: who should do the training now”

Dr Jones explained the new curriculum for Chemical Pathology and how it will be delivered by ‘run-through training programmes’ and will recruit specialty trainees at the ST1 level Direct from Foundation Year programmes. These doctors are unlikely to have significant exposure to laboratory medicine, and will require training in laboratory skills by Chemical Pathologists, Clinical Scientists and Biomedical Scientists, with evidence of competencies assessed by workplace-based assessment methodologies. Increasingly trainee Chemical Pathologists will enter the specialty at the ST3 level, having completed Core Medical Training, and will gain sub-specialty accreditation in Metabolic Medicine. This comprises the five clinical modalities of Diabetes Mellitus, Lipids and Cardiovascular Risk, Nutrition, Calcium and Bone Metabolism and Inborn errors of Metabolism. Training programmes therefore now use Physicians as well as Chemical Pathologists to deliver clinical and laboratory skills.

Ms Sarah May

(Executive Head of Strategy, Institute of Biomedical Science)

“Biomedical Scientists – Expanded roles, extended training”

Ms May’s lecture illustrated that the opportunity for biomedical scientists to take on new and extended roles brings with it the option for them to develop their scientific knowledge and skills rather than move into management.

A number of these extended roles involves biomedical scientists undertaking tasks previously only performed by pathologists, the consequences of this is an expansion of training needs and training responsibilities.

The lecture further described that the success of this change in working practice depends upon a strong relationship between biomedical scientists and pathologist and where appropriate, the joint development of formal training programmes and assessments to ensure fitness for practice. This will enable the recognition of skills and establishment of nationally recognized standards of best practice.

All three speakers took questions from the floor and received a vote of thanks from the President for their excellent contribution to the afternoon's success.

Professor J A Liu Yin, the Immediate Past President, commended Dr Benbow (Senior Lecturer in Pathology, University of Manchester & Consultant Pathologist, Central Manchester & Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust) for his year of office and contents of the sessions programme. He then introduced the 2006/2007 **Presidential Address** entitled "**Examining pathologist properly**".

Dr Benbow's address gave an account about the changes to the MRCPATH in Histopathology, and in particular those he made personally to the Part 1 examination.

The customary Presidential Dinner was held in honour of Dr Benbow at a local Thai restaurant, MosoMoso situated on Oxford Road, Manchester. The President of the Society, Professor J A Morris and the afternoon speakers were present as special guests of the Section and members of the Section were also welcomed.

This was a splendid meeting for the Section to close their current session on!