

Annual Report for Session 2017/18

1. Key Achievements

The society is pleased to have successfully put in an application for **official registration and affiliation with the Edinburgh University Students' Association**. This granted us official society status from Semester 2 of the 2017/18 session which will continue into the 2018/19 session.

We have continued to gain the **support of pathologists working within The University of Edinburgh/NHS Lothian** and hope to maintain good links to help organise events and activities in future years.

This year we have also received **funding of £500.00 from The Pathological Society of Great Britain & Ireland**, which was used to cover costs in the events outlined below.

2. Activities Organised & Hosted

a) **CSI: Edinburgh – an introduction to forensic pathology**

Our first event of the 2017-18 session was held on 3rd October 2017 and took the format of an evening talk given by Dr Gillian Wilson (ST6 in Forensic Histopathology, NHS Lothian). This was well attended with around 25-30 students present; this consisted of medical students, science students and even arts students! The talk provided an interesting overview of the role of a forensic pathologist, followed by an interactive discussion of cases and example injuries. This was particularly well-received, and we would welcome Dr Wilson to talk at future events.

b) **Neuropathology part I: basic overview**

This event on the 7th February 2018 was a talk given by Professor Colin Smith (Chair of Neuropathology, The University of Edinburgh). This was very well attended with around 35 students in attendance, and a good mix of both medical and science students. The talk consisted of a quick overview of the range of diseases seen by a practising neuropathologist. Feedback for this event was more mixed. Overall, it was felt that the talk was interesting and had lots of useful and relevant information, but some felt it was too 'information-dense' for an evening event. For future events, we would encourage speakers to keep talks more accessible to people of all levels of study and be more interactive.

Funding from The Pathological Society was used here to cover costs for refreshments for attendees and a 'thank you' bottle of wine for the speaker.

c) **Journal Club**

This event was organised for the 28th February 2018 to allow students to form a discussion on a recent paper looking into 'liquid biopsies' for early cancer detection ([Cohen et al. Science 2018: eaar3247](#)). Unfortunately, we had to cancel this event due to closure of the university from weather disruption.

d) Neuropathology part II: human prion diseases

On the 7th March 2018, we hosted a follow-up neuropathology event to discuss human prion diseases. This consisted of a talk given by Dr Diane Ritchie (Research Associate, National CJD Surveillance Unit). Unfortunately, this event was not well attended with only three students in attendance. The event went ahead anyway, with what proved to be an interesting overview and insight into contemporary research. The reason for poor attendance compared to other talks is not clear but proximity to exams and poor marketing of the event could have been important factors.

e) Annual general meeting

We hosted our AGM on the 24th March 2018 where a new committee for the 2018-19 session was elected:

- President: Chantelle Rock (Year 5 MBChB)
- Vice-president: Rhiannon Jones (Year 5 MBChB)
- Treasurer: Sidhant Seth (Year 6 MBChB)
- Secretary: Cuchulainn Gent (Year 2 MBChB)

3. Financial Report

Description:	Money in:	Money out:	Running balance:
PathSoc Society Grant	£500.00		£500.00
Costs from previous years		£50.00	£450.00
Refreshments at Neuropathology part I event		£55.57	£394.43
Refreshments at Neuropathology part II event		£25.00	£369.43

Funds carried forward = **£369.43**

4. Plans for Next Year

Moving forward into next year, we aim to continue hosting evening talks, hopefully increasing their frequency. We would want these to be more interactive and 'workshop-style' so that students may gain more from them. We are also looking into developing a student shadowing scheme in pathology whereby interested medical students can be 'set-up' with contacts working in University/NHS Lothian labs. Remaining funds will be used to develop these proposals.

5. Signatures



Sidhant Seth

Immediate Past President (2016-18)



Chantelle Rock

President (2018-present)