Advanced Specialist Diploma in Non-Gynaecological Cytology
The Story So Far

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ASD Non-Gynae Cytology

- What is an ASD
- The development of the ASD-NG
- The structure & format of the ASD-NG
- The results so far
Advanced Specialist Diploma

- Highest professional qualification offered by the IBMS
- Conjoint Exam Board – RCPath & IBMS
Advanced Specialist Diploma

- Cervical cytology 2001
  - Certificate in Advanced Practice
- Other specialities
  - Ophthalmic Pathology
  - Specimen Dissection
  - Non-Gynae Cytology
  - Histopathology Reporting (Pilot)
  - All ‘Cellular Pathology’ disciplines!
Advanced Specialist Diploma

- Cervical cytology
  - Report all grades of cervical cytology samples
  - 2001 (certificate in advanced practice)
  - A degree of crisis management
  - Developed within 12 - 18 months
  - Undoubted success
  - Crucial in the continued delivery of the UK cervical screening programmes
Advanced Specialist Diploma

- Cervical cytology
  - Not without criticism
  - Perceived poor pass rate (32% / 57%)
- Developments
  - MCQs removed
  - Portfolio
  - 2 day exam
  - Mandatory course replaced by portfolio part A
  - Format of written paper
Advanced Specialist Diploma

- Cervical cytology structure
  - Portfolio (parts A&B)
  - Written paper
    - 4 of 6 questions in 90 minutes
  - Short cases
    - 12 in 72 minutes – the answer is on the slide
  - Long cases
    - 8 in 120 minutes – the full answer is informed by what is on the slide
Non-Gynae Cytology

- Diploma in Expert Practice 2004
  - Respiratory, Serous fluids, Urines
  - Report negative samples
  - Perceived better pass rate (46% / 58%)
- Format
  - Portfolio
  - Written paper
  - Respiratory practical
  - Urine & serous fluid practical
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Drivers

- Diagnostic cytology investigations are less invasive, more acceptable to patients and allow rapid service
- Pathologists – manpower and preference
- Biomedical scientists have proven knowledge and skills in NG
- Biomedical scientists qualified to ASD level are beneficial to service delivery
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- February 2012 CJB meeting
  - Paper from the BAC
    - Appropriate for experienced biomedical scientists to report abnormal non-cervical cytology specimens
    - ASD level exam should be set accordingly
    - Agreed by CJB
    - Proposal to the RCPath Cytopathology sub-committee
    - Proposal to the Education & Professional Standards Committee IBMS
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- February 2013 CJB meeting
  - DEP mandatory requirement
  - Sub-group set up to decide:
    - Exam structure
    - Curriculum
    - Marking scheme
    - Review DEP
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- September 2013 IBMS Congress
  - ASD-NG presented by Dr T Giles and Mr A Wilson
  - Well received by the membership
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- Structure
- Agreed it should mirror ASD-CC
  - Portfolio
  - Written paper
  - Short cases
  - Long cases
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- Curriculum
  - Extensive
  - Indicative but not exhaustive
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- Marking scheme
  - ‘Closed marking’ – 50% pass in all papers
  - Scored 0 – 10 in theory
  - Scored 3 – 7 in practice
    - 3 poor response
    - 4 substandard response
    - 5 acceptable response (pass)
    - 6 good response
    - 7 excellent response
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- DEP review
  - Remains unchanged
  - Need a clear distinction between DEP and ASD
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- Grand-parenting clause
  - Approved by the E & PS committee July 2014
  - Exemption from the portfolio
  - Evidence of experiential learning and practice
  - Each application considered by the CJB
  - Limited period (closed 30\textsuperscript{th} September)
  - 4 submissions
    - 2 accepted
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Guidance to Candidates and Trainers

- Finally agreed January 2015
- Aims: To enable successful candidates to...
  - Participate in......assessment and reporting of selected non-gynaecological cytology specimens, including those where a clinically significant diagnosis is made
  - ....offer expert professional advice on non-gynaecological cytology specimen reporting
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Guidance to Candidates and Trainers

Learning outcomes

- Use highly specialised knowledge and skills to describe and report non-gynaecological cytology specimens
- Demonstrate the ability to operate autonomously whilst recognising the limits of their own competence, seeking advice from consultant colleagues when needed
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- Exam format
  - Written paper
    - 90 minutes 4 out of 6 questions
  - Short cases
    - 12 cases in 72 minutes
  - Long cases
    - 5 complex clinical cases in 100 minutes
      - Include full discussion of clinical correlation, diagnostic implications and patient management pathways
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- June 11th & 12th 2015
ASD Non-Gynae Cytology

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- One candidate (grand-parenting route)
ASD Non-Gynae Cytology

- June 11\textsuperscript{th} & 12\textsuperscript{th} 2015
- One candidate (grand-parenting route)
- Successful!!
ASD Non-Gynae Cytology

- June 11th & 12th 2015
- One candidate (grand-parenting route)
- Successful!!
- 100% pass rate!
ASD Non-Gynae Cytology

- June 11th & 12th 2015
- One candidate (grand-parenting route)
- Successful!!
- 100% pass rate!
- ASD in cytology 100% pass rate!
Thank You!