



South West Regional Cytology Training Centre

**Annual Report
2015 - 16**

The South West Regional Cytology Training Centre is located within North Bristol NHS Trust.

This Annual report covers the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

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1. Overview of the Training Centre

The Training Centre was established in 1990 to provide mandatory training for cytology laboratory staff working within National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme (NHSCSP) laboratories within the South West of England.

Today we offer mandatory training to cytology lab staff but we also have an extensive range of other courses on offer. We also offer training and updating for cervical sample takers and colposcopy staff.

Our training courses are free to staff working within NHSCSP cytology labs in the South West of England.

We have been fortunate over the years to have welcomed staff from elsewhere in England and the UK, as well as from further afield.

We pride ourselves with offering a warm and friendly welcome to all course members, and our aim is to ensure that our courses are varied and interesting, and that our teaching is of a high standard.

The training centre is affiliated to the cytology laboratory based at Southmead Hospital.

2. The Training Centre Team

Director

Dr Penny Tidbury joined the Training Centre as Director in January 2014. She is also Consultant Pathologist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Manager

Helen Burrell has been Manager of the Training Centre since 2001. She is also a Consultant Biomedical Scientist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Deputy Manager

Helen Hoskins has been Deputy Manager since 2003. She is also a senior Biomedical Scientist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Administrator

Louise Storie joined the Training Centre as Administrator in January 2014.

3. Summary of Courses Offered

Courses for Laboratory Staff

Gynaecological Cytology

The following courses are offered each year to laboratory staff:

Basic Courses in Gynaecological Cytology

- Introductory Course
- Follow-up course
- Prep Course for the Diploma in Cervical Cytology

Update Courses in Gynaecological Cytology

- 3-day Update for cytoscreeners and BMS staff
- 1-day update for checker staff
- 1-day update for Consultant staff
- 3-day Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists
- Cytology – a molecular future?

The following courses are offered subject to demand

- LBC System Conversion Courses
- One-day refresher courses
- 1-week course for Year 1 trainee pathologists
- Gynaecological Pathology for Colposcopists in Training
- Gynaecological Histology for cytology staff

Non - Gynaecological Courses

The following one-day courses were offered to laboratory technical staff:

- FNA Cytology
- Urine Cytology
- Serous Fluid Cytology
- Respiratory Cytology
- 4-day non-gynae course for trainee pathologists

4. Staff In Training: Laboratory non-medical staff

Any trainee staff wanting to become qualified to screen cervical samples must complete the City & Guilds Diploma in Cervical Cytology. During the training period the following mandatory courses must be attended.

Introductory Course in Gynaecological Cytology

This twenty-day course is mandatory for trainees who are taking the City & Guilds or the NHSCSP Diploma in Cervical Cytology. The syllabus follows that approved by the NHSCSP and contains a minimum of 80 hours microscopy time.

Some examples of topics covered during the course include the normal cervical sample and commonly encountered infections, the concept and pathology of squamous cervical abnormalities, adenocarcinoma of the female genital tract and quality issues within the NHSCSP.

Follow up to Introductory Course

This comprises 5 days of training provided at intervals following attendance at the introductory course. The course is offered in blocks of three and two days during the training period after attending the introductory course. This course is designed to monitor the individual's progress and provide suggestions to the laboratory regarding in-house training.

Prep Course for the Diploma in Cervical Cytology

This three-day course is exclusively designed for individuals preparing to undertake the exit examination to obtain the Diploma in Cervical Cytology. The course contains lectures, microscopy sessions, question & answer sessions and a mock examination, designed to demonstrate both the format of the examination and the skills and attributes required for its successful completion. The course covers specific topics selected from the NHSCSP Training Log and includes discussion and feedback on examination technique and performance.

4.2 Staff In Training: Laboratory medical staff

We offer a one-week course for medical staff in their first year of cytology training, plus two separate more specialised and examination focused courses.

One-Week Cytology Course for Year 1 Trainee Pathologists

This one-week course was designed to accommodate the cytology training needs of Year 1 trainee pathologists within the South West Region. It covers both Gynaecological and non-gynaecological cytology.

Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists

This three-day course is designed for trainee pathologists preparing to take the FRCPath examination. The course combines lectures and workshops covering various aspects of gynaecological cytology. This course is offered twice per year to fit in with FRCPath examinations.

Non-Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists

This four-day course is designed for trainee pathologists preparing to take the FRCPath examination. The course combines lectures and workshops covering various aspects of non-gynaecological cytology.

This course is now offered twice per year to fit in with MRCPath examinations.

4.3 Courses for Qualified Laboratory Staff

Mandatory Update Courses

All staff who screen, check or report cervical cytology must attend a minimum of three days of update training every three years. Although various courses and conferences are offered to cytology staff, the only courses that are recognised by the NHSCSP as official update courses are those held at an accredited cytology training centre.

Our training centre offers the following mandatory courses to cytology staff.

Update Course in Gynaecological Cytology

This three-day course is designed to inform and update qualified staff working in cytology about developments in cervical cytology and the NHSCSP, and to re-evaluate the morphology and criteria for evaluating the more difficult smears. Attendance at an update course once every three years enables staff to meet their professional requirements for continuing professional development.

Checkers Update Course in Gynaecological Cytology

This one-day update provides a lecture and workshops dedicated to challenging and difficult cervical samples, intended for staff that undertake checking in cervical cytology.

One-Day Update in Cervical Cytology for Consultant Pathologists, Consultant BMS's and holders of the ASD in Cervical Cytology

This one-day update provides a lecture and workshops dedicated to challenging and difficult cervical samples, intended for staff that report cervical cytology.

In addition to the mandatory update courses, the training centre also offers other courses in gynaecological cytology for qualified staff.

LBC System Conversion Course

This is a one-day course designed for individuals who are already trained in Surepath LBC system, but need to convert to screen Thin Prep samples. During the day, individuals are introduced to the main differences between the 2 systems, both in preparation and morphology. Attendees are given a 100-slide test set to take back to their laboratories for completion following this course.

At the training centre we aim to provide training and support to labs, and we do our best to accommodate their needs. If required we are able to offer a tailored course to accommodate the needs of an individual who has been identified as requiring extra support and training.

Other Courses for Laboratory Staff

Non-Gynaecological Courses

FNA Cytology for Technical Staff
Urine Cytology for Technical Staff
Serous Fluid Cytology for Technical Staff
Respiratory Cytology for Technical Staff

This series of one-day course is designed to give a basic introduction and background to the cytology of the various sites. The courses consist of a series of lectures, workshops and multi-header sessions. The graph below shows that non-gynae courses remain popular with laboratory staff.

Gynaecological Histology for Technical Staff

This one-day course is designed to give a basic introduction to gynaecological histology. It includes normal and abnormal histology covered by lectures and workshops.

4.4 Courses for Colposcopy Staff

Gynaecological Pathology for Colposcopists in Training

This two-day course is designed for specialist registrars in Gynaecology, and trainee nurse Colposcopists wishing to become accredited as colposcopists. The course is composed of lectures and workshops covering all main aspects of gynaecological cytology and histology.

All of these courses are free to staff working within the South West Region. Course fees will apply to staff from other regions. Further details including course fees are available on the training centre website.

Staff can book places by visiting the Training Centre website (www.cytology-training.co.uk) or by contacting the Training Centre administrator directly.

4.5 Courses for Cervical Sample Takers

As part of ongoing quality measures within the cervical screening programme, the Cytology Training Centre offers training and update course for cervical sample takers working within the Avon Cervical Screening Programme.

Sample Takers Initial 2 day course

This 2-day course is designed for sample takers in training and is suitable for both nurses and doctors. The course delivers information as specified in NHSCSP document 23.

Sample takers in training are assigned an external assessor and their cervical samples are monitored for the presence of transformation zone sampling. They are required to complete the remainder of the training within a 9-month period in order to obtain a certificate of completion.

Cervical Sample Takers Half-day Update course

Cervical sample takers are required to attend a half-day update once every three years. The training centre offers two courses each year.

Further details of sample taker course are available on the training centre website.

Please note that places on sample taker courses must be booked via the Avon Local Medical Committee (Avon LMC) and cannot be booked directly through the Training Centre. Please e-mail the following address to book a place:
practicestafftraining@almc.co.uk

5. Training Centre Activity

In this section you will find a summary of courses offered together with numbers of staff attending. Our figures include courses held between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016.

Course Title	Course Dates	Participants	Total Courses	Total Participants
3-day Update Course in Gynaecological Cytology	19-21 May 2015	6	5	39
	9-11 June 2015	9		
	15-17 September 2015	10		
	1-3 December 2015	7		
	8-10 March 2016	7		
3-day Preparatory Course Diploma In Cervical Cytology	6-7 January 2016	1	1	1
2-day Gynaecological Pathology for Colposcopy Trainees	3-4 November 2015	postponed	0	0
*Half-day Update for Cervical Sample Takers	14 May 2015	29	7	156
	9 September 2015	30		
	20 October 2015	28		
	12 November 2015	11		
	18 November 2015	24		
	21 January 2016	28		
	23 March 2016	6		
*Half Day Condensed Core Foundation Course for Trainee GP's – Sample Taker Training	7 October 2015	14	1	14
Serous Fluid Cytology for Technical Staff	16 February 2016	6	1	6
1-day Update in Cervical Cytology for Pathologists & Consultant BMS's	11 November 2015	4	1	4
1-day Gynaecological Histology for Technical Staff	10 June 2015	Cancelled		
*2-day Cervical Sample Taker Training	11-12 May 2015	18	3	44
	7-8 September 2015	17		
	18-19 January 2016	9		
Respiratory Cytology for Technical Staff	2 March 2016	8	1	8

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3-day Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists	No demand for course so not scheduled			
4-day Non-gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists	6-9 July 2015 22-25 September 2015 15-18 March 2016	cancelled 9 12	2	21
Update in Cervical Cytology for Checkers	29 April 2015 8 December 2015	Cancelled 10	1	10
4-week Introductory Course In Gynaecological Cytology(pt 2)	13-24 April 2015	4	1	4
FNA Cytology for Technical Staff	13 October 2015	11	1	11
Urinary Tract Cytology for Technical Staff	24 November 2015	9	1	9
5-day Cytology Training for Year 1 Trainee Pathologists	16-20 November 2015	10	1	10
5-Day Non Gynae Cytology Training for Year 1 Trainee Pathologists	14-18 December 2015	13	1	13
1 Day LBC System Conversion Course	10 th September 2015 11 th September 2015 21 st Sept 2015 22 nd Sept 2015 23 rd Sept 2015 24 th Sept 2015 25 th September 2015 29 th October 2015	12 8 11 12 10 9 8 6	7	76
3 Day Conversion Course	22-24 Feb 2015	1	1	1
<u>TOTALS</u>		427	36	427

Courses can be booked by contacting the Training Centre on 0117 323 5649 or by e-mailing SWRCTC@nbt.nhs.uk

Our courses are free of charge to all staff working in cytology laboratories within the South West region.

*Cervical sample taker course places must be booked via contacting the Avon Local Medical Committee at practicestaffingtraining@almc.co.uk. Sample taker courses cannot be booked through the Training Centre administrator. For further details about the South West Regional Cytology Training Centre please visit our website www.cytology-training.co.uk

6. Course Feedback

As a quality measure course evaluation sheets are given to all course participants. During the regular Training Centre team meetings the course feedback is collated and reviewed. Changes can then be made as deemed appropriate.

The feedback from course participants has been very welcome and suggests that the standard of teaching, training and updating has been excellent and very well received. A summary of participant feedback is listed below.

6.1 Feedback: Courses for Lab Staff – cervical cytology

Introductory Course in Gynaecological Cytology

Yes, wide variety of lectures explained very well.

Better than expected! Friendly, relaxed atmosphere

I enjoyed the course overall. The break in between was good as it helped consolidate what we had learnt so far.

All information as explained in basic terms and I was never made to feel daft.

By the end of the course I felt much more confident in all aspects of cytology.

3-Day Update in Gynaecological Cytology

Found the whole course very interesting. Thank you

Nice and relaxed pace of teaching/workshops

Excellent relaxed friendly course. Very interesting cases at workshops.

Very good.

Very relaxed, enjoyable course. Good interaction from all participants.

Well thought out and put together course. Excellent workshops. Thank you.

Very small print on one handout – difficult to read. Otherwise an excellent and very pertinent update course.

Very enjoyable course all round. Thank you!

Enjoyable course. Relaxed and informal atmosphere, yet educational at the same time.

An excellent, most enjoyable 3 days! With thanks!

Enjoyable experience presented in a relaxed atmosphere. All topics covered comprehensively.

One-Day Update in Cervical Cytology for Checkers

Another interesting course and discussion. Thank you!

Very enjoyable day.

A very interesting slide set and informative discussion.

Excellent, very good set of cases

One-day Update in Cervical Cytology for Consultant Staff

Very useful update on screening programme.

Yes – good workshop and interesting cases and time at multi-header always well spent.

Goods examples of interesting cases – thank you!

Good ‘current issues’ update

6.2 Feedback: Courses for Lab Staff – non gynae cytology

4-Day Non-Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists

Excellent course. Very beneficial to attend prior to the exam.

I really appreciated the efforts consultants have put in. Everything was perfect.

Very useful course. I know which areas I need to work on now. Picked up lots of useful tips and much clearer what I’m looking for to make a diagnosis. Thank you.

FNA Cytology for Technical Staff

Very good. Thank you.

Refreshed my knowledge and very good lectures.

Very good examples on the multi-header session.

Urine Cytology for Technical Staff

Excellent reminders of urine cytology!

Good starting knowledge of urine cytology..

Learned more about urine cytology, about adequacy and how to report.

Excellent refresher course.

A wider knowledge of various diagnosis – very helpful as I have just started my training.

A lot – I didn’t really know what the urothelial cells were before – now I do!

I gained a lot of knowledge on this topic. It has been very educational. Dr Tidbury has been very excellent in delivering the topics

Serous Fluid Cytology for Technical Staff

I think it was at just the right level – not too detailed for one day

A good range of information covering all aspects.

Gained a lot of knowledge of ICC stains to do to confirm diagnosis.

Renewed my confidence and knowledge.

Respiratory Cytology for Technical Staff

Excellent teaching; very educational. Very pleased.

The sessions were very educational, eye opening experience for me.

Opportunity to cover ground at a personal pace

6.4 Feedback: Sample taker courses

2-Day Cervical Sample taker training

Very well structured, organised and supported course. Material, hand-outs and folders very helpful/clear and supporting. Very interesting. Thank you. Well organised and presented course. Relevant information clearly explained. Support offered. Comfortable surroundings, nice to have tea and coffee. Good presenters especially nurse colposcopists. Hand-outs and folders helpful.

All sections very interesting and appropriate hand-outs/content. Well-presented/structured and well supported. Thank you.

A very informative course with plenty of opportunity for questions/discussions.

Thanks

Thoroughly enjoyed the whole course.

Very informative – fantastic. Thank you.

Best course I have been on. Thank you.

1/2-Day Cervical Sample taker update

Informative sessions – particularly HPV pilot primary schemes as not been part of this.

Also update on technique and audits valuable.

Found all sessions useful.

Thank you for an interesting half day session.

All very interesting - good to update and clarify issues “heard on grapevine”.

Good update. Could it be done on line?

All sessions very helpful

½ day condensed foundation course for GP trainees

Very interesting, well-structured course with good speakers.

Very informative session. Good, useful topics covered.

Very useful – extremely relevant and aimed at appropriate level. Particularly useful seeing colposcopy slides of various cervixes. Thank you!

Very useful overview and reminder.

Really useful and interesting. Thanks!

Great sessions – brilliant to discuss/see pictures.

Very good answers to all questions.

Really good, balanced and concise coverage of the key areas with really well-informed speakers. Well organised – thanks

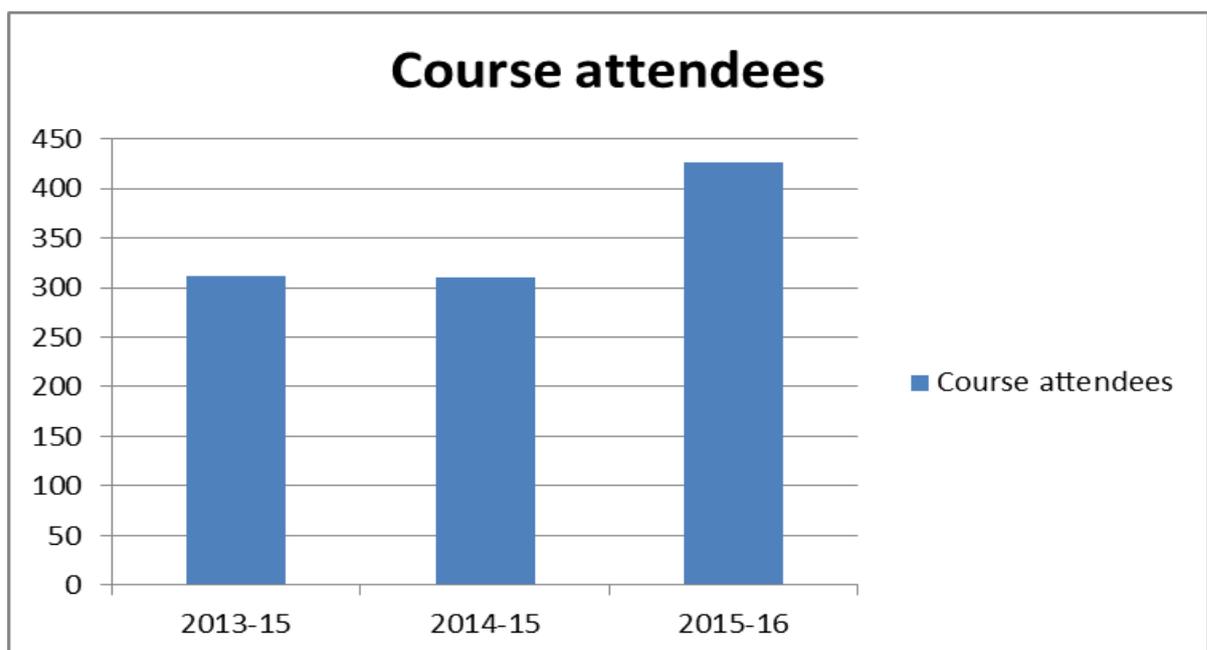
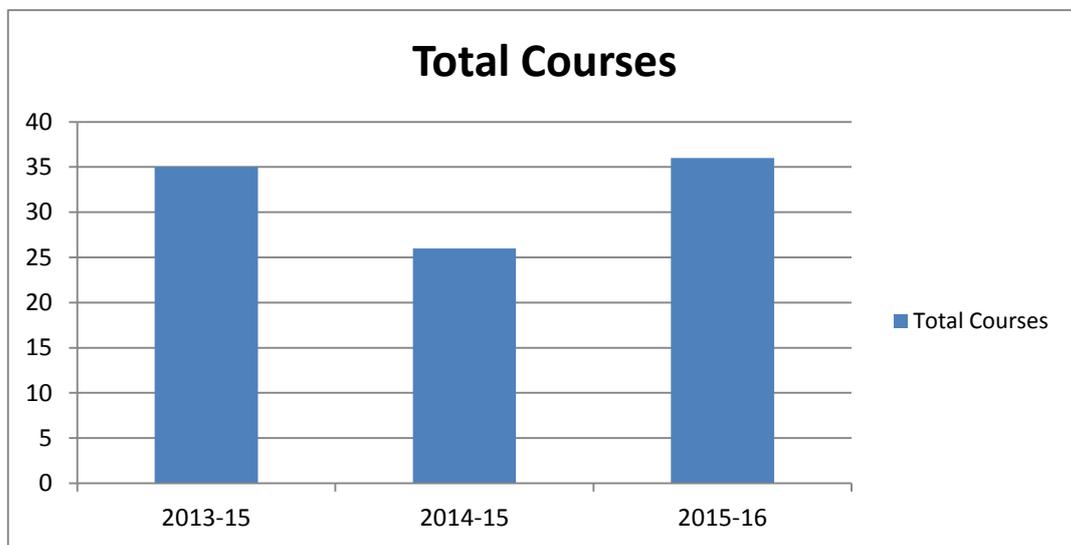
7. Looking back at the last year

Activity levels were extremely high, much of this is attributable to the whole Wales LBC system conversion which we were proud to have been able to deliver following a request from Cervical Screening Wales. Hard work but we got there in the end!

Sample taker training and updating is thriving. Extra courses were scheduled as demand rose.

Cancer audit cases continue to be reviewed and any educational issues have been addressed during update courses.

The following charts show the increased demand for courses over the last year.



8. Looking ahead

With increasing pressures on laboratories to meet the 14 day turnaround times, some labs have asked for us to deliver training at approved training premises nearer to their home laboratories.

Training has been scheduled for Belfast, Dublin and the North of England for 2015-16.

A decision has been announced regarding HPV primary screening. The UKNSC have recommended that this should be the method for cervical screening in the future. This is to be fully implemented in England by 2019. Implementation will obviously have massive effects on laboratory configurations and on the staff currently employed within the NHSCSP.

Non-gynae, histology and molecular courses may become more popular. However the mandatory updates must continue in order to keep a skilled workforce.

9. Further Information / Contact Details

Please log on to our website to see the latest courses on offer for both cytology staff and sample takers.

If you have any queries or comments regarding this report, or would like any additional information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

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