

# The Work of the NCRI Taskforce on Pathology and Research

- **Background**
- **Purpose**
- **Scope**
- **Membership**
- **Methods**
- **Recommendations & Actions**

# Background

- **Translational Research depends on collaboration between pathologists and other researchers**
- **Pathologists provide expertise and access to tissues**
- **Academic Pathology expertise is increasingly scarce**
- **Service Pathologists need time and funding to support research**
- **Obstacles are multifactorial**

# Purpose

**To Foster the Role of Pathologists and  
Pathology Services in Translational Research**

# Scope

- **To be informed by needs of research in the cancer field**
- **To engage with Key Stakeholders (NHS, DoH, RCPATH, NCRI partners)**
- **Exist as a time-limited group reporting to the NCRI Board Sub-Group on Clinical and Translational Research**
- **To work with Key Stakeholders to develop and implement measures to facilitate pathologists' and pathology services' involvement in research**
- **To serve as a conduit to wider engagement with the research and pathology communities**

# Membership

- **Representatives from:-**

**Academic Pathology, Service Pathology, HTA, DoH, MRC, CRUK, Patients, IBMS, PathSoc, BDIAP, NHS Management**

- **Total 18**

- **Supported by NCRI Secretariat and onCore UK**

- **Consulted with wider group including (RCPath, Industry, the Carter Independent Review Team)**

# Methods

- **3 Meetings in 2008 of full Taskforce**
- **4 subgroups working between by email**
  - **Academic Pathology Workforce (Phil Quirke)**
  - **Individual Incentives (Chris Foster)**
  - **Financial and Physical Resource (Jonathan Sheffield)**
  - **Education and Communication (Jo Martin)**
- **Report and Recommendations to NCRI Board March 2009**
- **Wider stakeholder consultations – ongoing**

# Recommendations and Actions

## 3 Areas

- (1) Rejuvenate and Enable Histopathology Research in Medical Schools and the NHS**
- (2) Create a Clear and Practical Pathway through the Regulatory and Governance Framework**
- (3) Promote and Create Enhanced Recognition of the Patient Benefits Arising from Pathology Research**

# **Rejuvenate and Enable Histopathology Research in Medical Schools and the NHS**

## **Recommendations**

- (1) A funding initiative to rebuild national capacity for Histopathology Research**
- (2) Emphasise pathology in undergraduate medical curricula, foundation and BMS training**
- (3) Encourage the College to include research as part of training for FRCPath/CCT**

# Rejuvenate and Enable Histopathology Research in Medical Schools and the NHS

## Recommendations

- (4) Develop a standard template of costs that have to be met to enable NHS Pathology Departments to participate in research**
- (5) Pathology activities within research portfolios must be clearly defined and met by established funding mechanisms**

# **Create a Clear and Practical Pathway through the Regulatory and Governance Framework**

## **Recommendations**

- (6) Clear, consolidated, comprehensive guidance on regulatory and governance issues is required**
- (7) Processes for obtaining generic and enduring consent for research should be built in to routine NHS practice**
- (8) An NRES Workshop on research on anonymised tissues**

# **Create a Clear and Practical Pathway through the Regulatory and Governance Framework**

## **Recommendations**

- (9) NRES should review guidance on ethical review of Research Tissue Banks and the use of diagnostic archives for research and discuss these issues with the HTA**
- (10) Long term storage of diagnostic tissue blocks should be encouraged and facilitated**
- (11) Research Tissue Banks should be part of, or intimately related to, NHS diagnostic histopathology departments**

# **Promote and Create Enhanced Recognition of the Patient Benefits Arising from Pathology Research NHS**

## **Recommendations**

- (12) All research funders should require evidence of the engagement of pathologists in grant applications for research that has a high dependency on histopathology expertise**
- (13) The RCPATH, PathSoc, and other stakeholders should establish a consortium to produce a communications programme to promote the importance of pathology research to healthcare**

# Ongoing Activity

- **Consultation with wider stakeholders**
- **Development of the details of the funding initiative**
- **Dialogue with the MRC and others on the above**
- **Publication of Report (October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009) with recommendations and instigated actions**

**Aim:- The formation of several NCRI Research Collaboratives in Molecular Histopathology throughout the UK**