

Workforce modernisation

Expanding the role of the Biomedical Scientist



Developing sustainable services

Expanding the role of the Biomedical Scientists is a key step towards developing sustainable services through workforce modernisation, one of the deliverables of the Scottish Government's National Delivery Plan for Healthcare Science. Created and developed by the **Scottish Pathology Network (SPAN)**, a new training programme aims to free up medical capacity and improve turnaround of tissue dissection across all of Scotland's pathology laboratories.

Increasing skills

Scotland's brand new Biomedical Scientist Dissection Training School was launched in May 2018 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, and continues annually. Over the course of a week, participants undertook initial training in the practicalities of dissection, and familiarisation of the principles and clinical governance in laboratories.

Participation

Initial evaluation indicated that all eleven participants (representing the ten NHS Boards that provide pathology services) were 'very satisfied' that the course had fulfilled its learning objectives.

The participants are now undergoing local dissection training and will be approved to dissect a range of tissue types within the categories specified by the Royal College of Pathologists. SPAN's long-term goal is to increase BMS dissection to 90% for less complex specimens (categories A,B,C), and to 70% for categories D&E, which will have significant impact on NHS Boards, where current rates can be as low as 2%.

"The course gave me a good grounding in anatomy and pathologies of many of the specimens I am likely to come across in BMS dissection"

Quote from participant

Interested in finding out more?

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