



PATHNET NI
Pathology Network, Northern Ireland

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PATHOLOGY NETWORK

Quarter 2
July - September 2022

Welcome

RONAN STRAIN
NI PATHOLOGY
NETWORK MANAGER



As the Manager of the NI Pathology Network, I am delighted to lead this Clinical Network on a day-to-day basis both operationally and strategically.

The pandemic showed just how important the Network is in terms of regional collaboration, and continues today to support our Covid response and drive forward transformational work to ensure and assure sustainable pathology services in our health system.

In recognition of this and the work of the Network since 2009, last autumn Minister Swann announced his commitment to delivering a modern, sustainable, world-class pathology service in Northern Ireland by publishing a Departmental Policy Statement on Transforming HSC Pathology Services.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/world-class-pathology-services-are-critical-our-health-service-swann>

"Pathology services are critical to our health service and the dedication and hard work of our regional pathology workforce in Northern Ireland is second to none".

Health Minister Robin Swann

Message from the NI Pathology Network Chair



JENNIFER WELSH
CHAIR, NI PATHOLOGY NETWORK
& CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
NORTHERN HSC TRUST

This is an exciting time for Pathology services. The Pathology Network includes amongst others, all HSC Trusts and Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS). The Network, under its formal terms of reference enables effective and efficient regional collaboration and the coordination and delivery of a significant programme of pathology transformation, as well as our Covid response. This essential work progresses alongside other independent programmes such as the Pathology Blueprint Programme and the Northern Ireland Pathology Information Management Systems Programme (NIPIMS).

Key areas of focus for the Pathology Network include the development of a HSC Pathology Workforce and Training Strategy and Implementation Plan, and a regional project to deliver regional standardisation of laboratory operational processes to support the introduction of the new regional LIMS and Encompass.

I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all Pathology staff for their continued support in advancing Pathology Transformation and business as usual plans thus far and I look forward to your continued support and involvement in the busy months ahead.

Message from the Pathology Network Clinical Directors

DR KATHRYN RYAN, CLINICAL DIRECTOR FOR SPECIALTY FORA
DR MICHAEL McKENNA, CLINICAL DIRECTOR FOR BLUEPRINT PROGRAMME

We are delighted to be recently appointed as Clinical Directors within the Pathology Network to provide leadership and clinical point of contact for both Specialty Fora (SF) and Blueprint programme.

These are challenging but exciting times for Pathology Services as we all work together to share the same vision of a world class service for our local population.

We look forward to working with you now and in the future.

What is the NI Pathology Network?

- The NI Pathology Network is comprised of those who shape and deliver pathology services in Northern Ireland. It was formally launched in October 2009 and its purpose is to provide direction and consistency in the development and delivery of pathology services within Northern Ireland.
- The Network is supported by a Network Board, practitioner groups called Specialty Fora (SF - organised by pathology discipline), a number of regional strategic project groups, and the Pathology Network team, which is hosted by the Department of Health (DoH) Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG).

What does the Network aim to do?

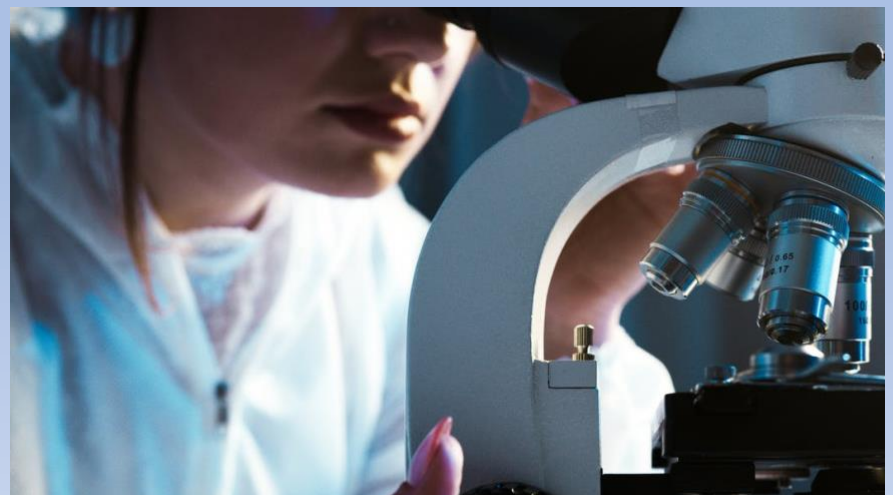
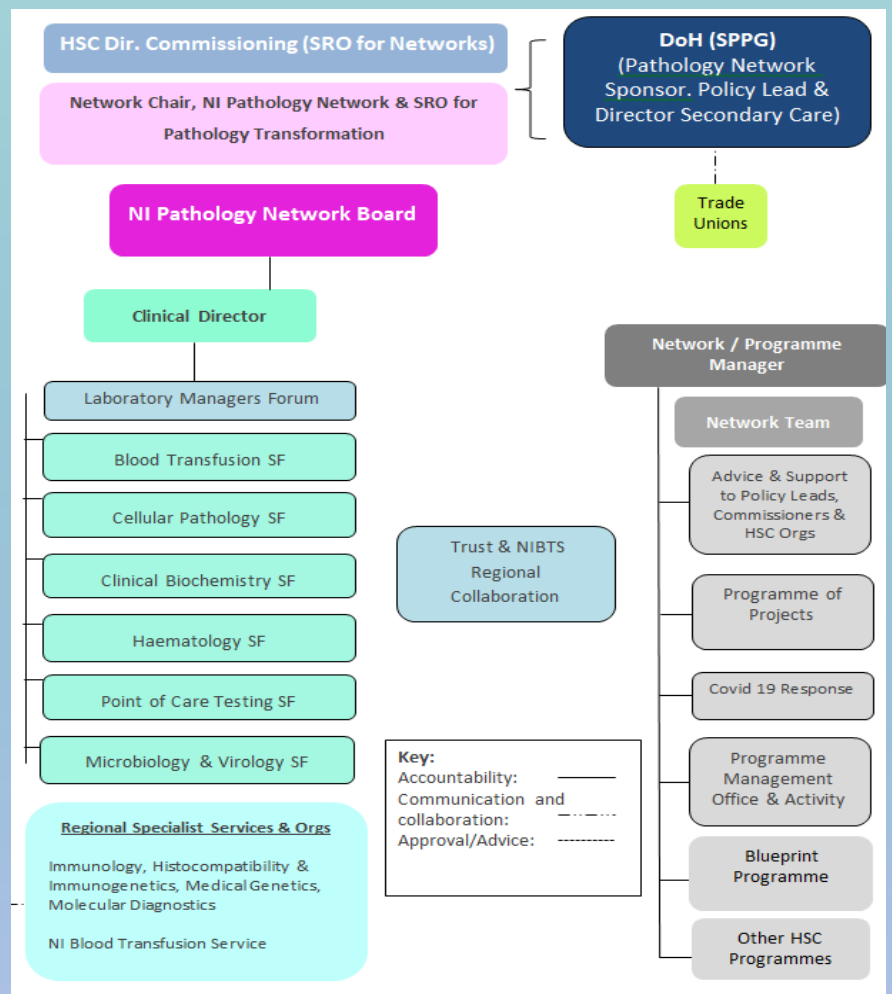
- The Network aims to ensure clinically led, patient centred and sustainable pathology services that:
 - Deliver safe, high quality, evidence based care for patients
 - Value and involve staff in decision making
 - Foster innovation
 - Continually evaluate and improve
 - Provide value for money

Why does the Network do this?

- HSC pathology services need to be equipped to meet the growing challenges and demands that we face, and to resolve them through a regional approach. Having a formal regional Network helps to reduce unnecessary duplication, increase consistency and standardisation of laboratory practices, and provide staff with attractive career development opportunities.

NI Pathology Network Internal Structure & External Stakeholders

The NI Pathology Network is hosted by the Department of Health (DoH) Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG) and governed by a Network Board with formal terms of reference. The Network manages a number of discipline specific Specialty Forums (SF) including Lab Managers as well as a programme of work. The Network is also a key stakeholder for other relevant high profile HSC programmes through our well established regional governance structures. These structures enable external programmes such as Blueprint, NIPIMS, Encompass, Digital Pathology and others to successfully deliver their aims & objectives. The Network structure is shown below:



Meet the Team

Name	Position	Contact
Jennifer Welsh	Chair Network Board & Chief Executive NHSCT	Jennifer.Welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net
Dr Kathryn Ryan	Clinical Director	Kathryn.Ryan@setrust.hscni.net
Dr Michael McKenna	Clinical Director	Michael.McKenna@westerntrust.hscni.net
Ronan Strain	Network Manager	Ronan.Strain@hscni.net
Dympna Stewart	Project Manager	Dympna.Stewart@hscni.net
Nicola Quinn	Project Manager	Nicola.Quinn4@hscni.net
Kathryn Greer	Project Manager	Kathryn.Greer@hscni.net
Ian Hannigan	Project Manager	Ian.Hannigan@hscni.net
Claire Edgar	HR Manager	Claire.Edgar@nibts.hscni.net
Charley McCloy	Office Manager	Charley.McCloy@hscni.net
Other key members of the Network		
Ryan Wilson	Director of Secondary Care DoH	Ryan.Wilson@health-ni.gov.uk
Karin Jackson	Deputy Chair Network Board & Chief Executive NIBTS	Karin.Jackson@nibts.hscni.net
Cara Anderson	Pathology Commissioner (SPPG)	Cara.Anderson@hscni.net

Contact the NI Pathology Network

If you have any queries in relation to the Network please contact pathology.network@hscni.net in the first instance.

Membership of our Specialty Fora (SF) & Lab Managers Forum

Biochemistry SF

Forum Member:	Org:	Position:
Kathryn Greer	Network	Project Manager
Dr Margaret McDonnell	BHSCT	SF Forum Chair
Dr Brona Roberts	BHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Gareth McKeeman	BHSCT	Clinical Lead
Leanne McAdam	BHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Elinor Hanna	NHSCT	Clinical Lead
Nigel Quinn	NHSCT	Lead BMS
Kevan Duffin	SHSCT	Deputy Chair
Dr Peter Sharpe	SHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Jenny Hamilton	SHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Mark Lynch	WHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Maurice O'Kane	WHSCT	Clinical Lead
Replaced	WHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Kathryn Ryan	SEHSCT	Clinical Lead
Gillian Law	SEHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Derek McKillop	SEHSCT	Clinical Lead

Please note some members are currently in the process of being replaced due to recruitment, retirement or end of tenure.

Blood Transfusion SF

Forum Member:	Org:	Position
Kathryn Greer	Network	Project Manager
Dr Gary Benson	BHSCT	SF Forum Chair
Beverley Craig	BHSCT	Lead BMS
Lyndsey Parker	BHSCT	Lead BMS
Sinead Carty	SEHSCT	SF Forum Deputy
Dr Narind Sharma	SEHSCT	Clinical Lead
Adrian Crawford	WHST	Lead BMS
Carole-Ann Henry	NHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Philip Windrum	NHSCT	Clinical Lead
Graham Scott	SHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Mark Bridgham	SHSCT	Clinical Lead
Matt Gillespie	NIBTS	Head of Supply Chain and Testing Services
Dr Kathryn Maguire	NIBTS	Clinical Lead
Dr Lauren Kirkpatrick	NIBTS	Clinical Lead

Haematology SF

Forum Member:	Org:	Position
Kathryn Greer	Network	Project Manager
Dr Feargal McNicholl	WHST	SF Forum Chair
Adrian Crawford	WHST	SF Forum Deputy
Frances McCauley	BHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Gary Benson	BHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Bridgin Merron	NHSCT	Clinical Lead
Dr Aaron Niblock	NHSCT	Clinical Lead
Carole-Anne Henry	NHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Margaret Bowers	SEHSCT	Clinical Lead
Sinead Carty	SEHSCT	Lead BMS
Graham Scott	SHSCT	Lead BMS
Vacant	SHSCT	Lead BMS

Cellular Pathology SF

Forum Member:	Trust:	Position:
Nicola Quinn	Network	Project Manager
Dr Michael McKenna	WHST	SF Forum Chair
	SHSCT	
Gerry Clarke	BHSCT	NIPIMS Rep
Robbie Wilson	BHSCT	Deputy Chair & BMS Lead - Histopathology
David Gillan	BHSCT	Lead BMS - Cytology
Dr Clinton Boyd	BHSCT	Pathologist Lead
Dr Kelly Elliott	NHSCT	Pathologist Lead
Mari Paul	NHSCT	Lead BMS
Dr Aaron Ervine	SHSCT	Pathologist Lead
Rachael McCracken	SHSCT	Lead BMS
Nora McDonald	WHST	Lead BMS
Dr Ciaran Flynn	WHST	Pathologist Lead

Microbiology & Virology SF

Forum Member:	Trust:	Position:
Kathryn Greer	Network	Project Manager
Dr Cara McKeating	SHSCT	SF Forum Chair
Diane Bradley	SHSCT	Microbiology Scientific Lead
Nicole Crone	SHSCT	Microbiology Scientific Lead
Martin Robinson	WHSCT	Microbiology Scientific Lead
Dr Gerard Glynn	WHSCT	Microbiologist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Colin Goldsmith	BHSCT	Microbiologist/ Clinical Lead
Carmela Duffy	BHSCT	Virology Discipline Manager
Dr Tanya Curran	BHSCT	Clinical Scientist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Alison Watt	BHSCT	Clinical Scientist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Susan Feeney	BHSCT	Clinical Scientist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Kathy Li	BHSCT	Clinical Scientist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Derek Fairley	BHSCT	Molecular diagnostics
Mark McGimpsey	BHSCT	SF Forum Deputy / Microbiology Scientific Lead
Dr David Farren	NHSCT	Microbiologist/ Clinical Lead
Karen Shields	NHSCT	Microbiology Scientific Lead
David Miller	SEHSCT	Microbiology Scientific Lead
Dr Hannah McCormick	SEHSCT	Microbiologist/ Clinical Lead
Dr Tim Wyatt	PHA	Public Health Representative

Point of Care Testing (POCT) SF

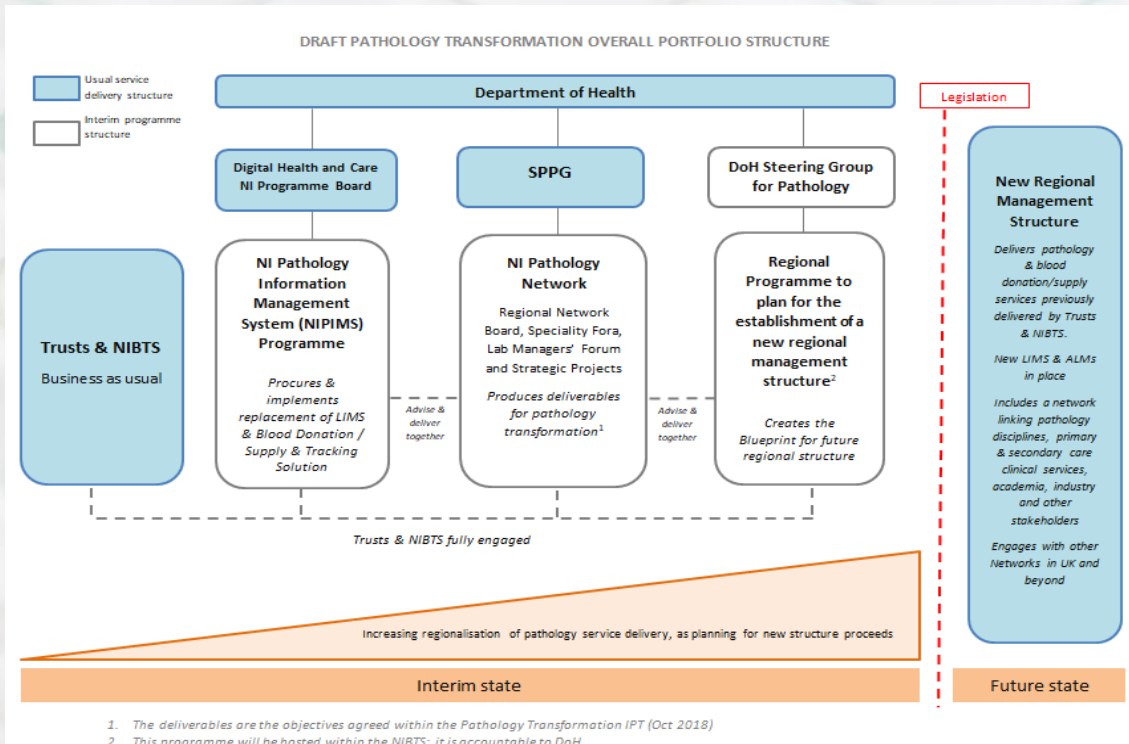
Forum Member:	Trust:	Position:
Ian Hannigan	Network	Project Manager
Derek McKillop	SEHSCT	SF Forum Chair
Emma Reilly	BHSCT	Lead BMS
Gareth McKeeman	BHSCT	Clinical Lead (Consultant Clinical Scientist)
Elinor Hanna	NHSCT	Clinical Lead (Consultant Chemical Pathologist)
Joanne Jackson	NHSCT	Lead BMS
Marnie Dodd	SEHSCT	Lead BMS
Jenny Hamilton	SHSCT	Clinical Lead (Consultant Clinical Scientist)
Ciara Arthur	SHSCT	Lead BMS
Kathy Ryan	WHSCT	Lead BMS
Mark Lynch	WHSCT	Clinical Lead (Consultant Clinical Biochemist)

Lab Managers Forum

Forum Member:	Trust:	Position:
Dympna Stewart	Network	Project Manager
Raymond Gamble	SEHSCT	Forum Chair
Geoff Kennedy	SHSCT	Deputy Chair
Darren Campbell	BHSCT	Lab Manager
Laurence Tucker	BHSCT	Lab Manager
Gerard Duffy	NHSCT	Lab Manager
Matt Gillespie	NIBTS	Lab Manager
Mandy Gormley	WHSCT	Lab Manager

Department of Health's (DoH) Pathology Transformation Portfolio

The Network's programme is one of 3 programmes that together make up the Department of Health's Pathology Transformation Portfolio. The other programmes are the NI Pathology Information Systems Programme (NIPIMS), and the Blueprint Programme. The portfolio structure is shown below:



NI Pathology Network Programme of Work 2022/23 - 2023/24

The Network's programme of work is aligned to 5 Strategic Objectives to enable reform to deliver transformation:

Workforce & Training

Service Delivery & Standardisation

Quality and Safety

Clinical Effectiveness

Other Strategic Projects



NI Pathology Network has a Key Stakeholder role in the following projects:

- Blueprint Project
- Core LIMS Project
- Blood Production & Tracking Project
- Digital Pathology
- Encompass Project
- Cancer Strategy / Recovery Plan
- Regional Diagnostic Services (RDS)

NI Pathology Network Programme of Projects prioritised for 2022/23 - 2023-24

Regional Standardisation Project to enable new LIMS & Encompass
Regional Workforce & Training Strategy & Implementation Plan
Regional Cellular Pathology Consumables & Equipment (including IT equipment and software) Project
Regional Cellular Pathology Primary HPV Screening Project
POCT Regional Strategy
Repatriation of 16-week Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis (PVSA) test Project
Repatriation of Fungal Markers test Project
Higher Specialist Clinical Scientist Training Project
Regional Benchmarking Exercise - Volume of Genomic/Molecular Diagnostic Tests requested out with the Regional Molecular Diagnostic Service (including POCT)
24/7 and OOH Staffing Projects
BMS Band 5/6 Regional Recruitment Project
Advanced Practitioner in Reporting Project
Regional Specialist Integrated Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service (SIHMDS) Regional Project
Strategic Management Training for Trainees Project
Regional Practice Educator Role Project