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Full Reference: Maher NG. RCPA Draft Guidance Document for Artificial Intelligence in Pathology

Conference/Meeting Name: The 48th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology

Location: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

Dates: 31st May – 2nd June 2024

Presentation Type: Invited Oral presentation



Speakers at the Digital and Quantitative Pathology Companion Club session (L-R Dr Melissa Holmes, Dr Cheng Chee Leong, Dr Blake O'Brien and Dr Nigel Maher)

I was very grateful to have this opportunity to attend the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology. This is a leading large conference, attracting a diverse range of well-known speakers covering a breadth of topics related to pathology.

In the Digital and Quantitative Pathology Companion Club session, I presented a synopsis of the current RCPA Draft Guidance Document for Artificial Intelligence in Pathology. This document represents a culmination of work from a larger working group of pathologists from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), and is intended to help pathologists, laboratories, and ultimately regulatory authorities to safely implement AI-related tools in

pathology practice. I am the current chair of the RCPA AI Working Group in Pathology, and saw this as an important opportunity to gain feedback and let the pathology community know what is coming. The talk received excellent feedback, and further suggestions from audience members. This included having a checklist, as a summary of the content, to help users more easily apply the guidelines in their setting. Understanding this field well is also directly relevant to my current PhD research, which is applying AI to analyse melanoma pathology images, to ultimately improve quality assurance in clinical practice.

Outside of this session, I also attended other excellent lectures by leading domestic and international speakers. The Vincent McGovern memorial lecture, on Saturday 1st June, from Dr Amanda Charlton, on cognitive bias, was particularly inspiring and relevant to AI in pathology. As one of the key practice points related to cognitive bias in her lecture, Dr Charlton discussed the value of AI tools as an external quality assurance check to prevent errors. I was also able to discuss aspects of developing an external quality assurance program for AI tools with the RCPAQAP team, and I met with relevant AI-related vendors at the trade exhibits that could provide helpful solutions at my current research-based workplace.

It was nice to escape the early winter chill in Sydney, with the warmer sunny weather in Brisbane. I'm very grateful to Sydney Cancer Partners support in facilitating my attendance at this conference.