data are assessed (Foster *et al.*, in press) means accreditation and QA programs need to be continuously updated.

References

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CORONIAL CASES: SARS-COV-2 INFECTION AND COVID-19

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Victoria's second wave of SARS-CoV-2 infections saw a number of reports of deaths of SARS-CoV-2 positive persons made to the coroner. Whilst COVID-19 deaths are natural and do not routinely fall under the coroner's jurisdiction, these cases were brought to the coroner's attention due to deaths being unexpected and unexplained and subsequently being diagnosed as COVID-19 post-mortem, concerns around care in those dying with a known diagnosis of COVID-19, or co-incidental SARS-CoV-2 infection with a cause of death unrelated to viral infection. This had a significant impact on workloads at VIFM, ranging from changes in admission procedures, extensive viral testing, and contributions to contact tracing. Aspects of the management of these cases will be discussed, along with the pathological aspects of some of these presentations.

A REVIEW OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE PD-L1 FOR NSCLC

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The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP) are accredited against International Standard (ISO/IEC) 17043 Conformity assessment – General

requirements for proficiency testing. In 2017, the RCPAQAP began collaborating with the United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment Services for Immunocytochemistry and In-Situ Hybridisation (UK NEQAS ICC and ISH) for technical proficiency testing in PD-L1 for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). RCPAQAP laboratories participating in the program has increased steadily over the last few years to 43 in 2021; 2018–2020 results will show that RCPAQAP participant results are comparable with results from the total number of 153 UK NEQAS participants.

The RCPAQAP also collaborates with the International Quality Network for Pathology (IQNPath) for PD-L1 for NSCLC interpretation proficiency testing. RCPAQAP participants are invited to participate in this and other IQNPath programs free of charge. Outcomes from this collaboration will be presented.

The Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD) BioPlaza platform is a tool that will enable RCPAQAP participants to load de-identified patient tumour proportion scores (TPS) to allow dynamic laboratory average comparison against the Australian average in a 'real time' external quality assurance paradigm.

WILL THE BOT TAKE THE LOT? LOOKING RATIONALLY AT THE PROMISES AND THREATS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PATHOLOGY

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While one casual observer might regard artificial intelligence (AI) as the golden future of the planet, the next may see it as a menacing threat to human sovereignty, or simply over-rated hype. As pathology tentatively enters the digital age, we can justifiably ask the questions – is AI going to make us better pathologists? Have minimal impact? Or make the *discipline* of pathology better, with or without *us*? In either case, pathologists must engage with the debate and take an active role in shaping how clever machines are rolled out into our vocation.

This talk takes a birds-eye view of the topic of AI in pathology, examining what we do, how we (currently) do it and how the clever deployment of machine learning and other AI technologies can possibly help us do it better, without displacing the human element from the process. Topics covered include the potential role of robotics in the cut-up room; the role of machines in things we already do superbly well (such as image analysis); the things we do less well (like counting and scoring!); and some possible future exciting directions for our profession.