

Diagnostics of autoimmune bullous diseases: immunofluorescence, histopathology and immunology

Course ref: OTH-IF-0125

Date: Friday 31st January 2025

Online via MS Teams

Further information and application forms for any of our courses are available from our Administration Team:

Administration:	Wakefield	0113 246 6330
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Diagnostics of autoimmune bullous diseases: immunofluorescence, histopathology and immunology

This course will provide an overview of all aspects of diagnostic testing for autoimmune bullous diseases (AIBDs), a group of disorders of the skin and mucous membranes. The pathological basis of these diseases, through the targeting of epithelial structural components by autoreactive antibodies will be discussed, in addition to the current classification of these disorders and the principles of the lab techniques used to diagnose and monitor these diseases. There will be extensive discussion of practical considerations for optimising direct immunofluorescence (DIF) techniques, including sample preparation, cryotomy and microscopy of specimens.

Quality assurance considerations, to comply with UKAS accreditation standards will also be discussed with particular emphasis on the UK NEQAS CPT direct immunofluorescence EQA scheme and there will be interactive opportunities to discuss examples of material submitted to this scheme. The course will conclude with a number of case presentations and tips on interpretation and reporting of DIF and further opportunity for discussion of any of the topics covered.

This course has been developed for biomedical scientists, clinical scientists and histopathologists involved in the processing and reporting of direct immunofluorescence techniques for AIBDs.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course participants should understand:

- the principles underlying immunobullous disease pathology
- current lab diagnostic methodologies for these diseases
- typical results and diagnostic interpretation
- the importance of combining histopathological and serological results for accurate diagnosis
- the requirements for quality assurance of these techniques
- the relationship between clinical presentation and diagnostic results

Course Venue:

Online

The faculty:

Dr John Mee Principle Clinical Scientist/Lab Manager, Immunodermatology Laboratory,
St John's Institute of Dermatology, St Thomas' Hospital, London

COURSE PROGRAMME

- 09:45 Registration and welcome (Pre course assessment)
- 10:00 Immunopathology of autoimmune bullous diseases (AIBDs)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Principal techniques for diagnosis and monitoring of AIBDs
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Practical considerations for optimisation of direct immunofluorescence (DIF) in AIBDs
- 12:45 Lunch
- 13:30 Quality assurance considerations for DIF (including NEQAS CPT DIF EQA scheme)
- 14:30 Break
- 14:45 Case presentations and concluding discussion
- 15:45 Post course assessment
- (16:00 Finish)

Cost: £115

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