

By Jemma Wells, Dr. Mary Sheppard's Medical Secretary at the CRY CCP.



Dr Mary Sheppard
Consultant Cardiac Pathologist



Jemma Wells
Medical Secretary



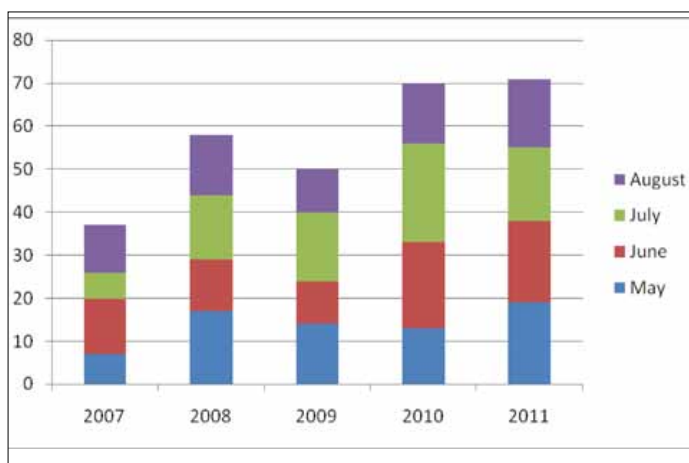
Dr Sofia de Noronha
Research Assistant



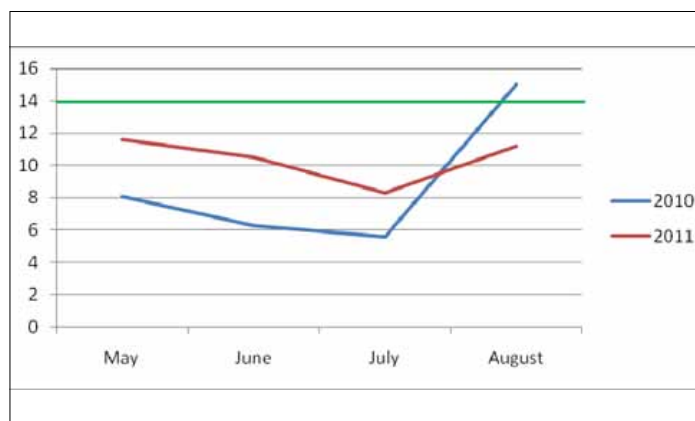
Sahamaz Vakhshouri
Laboratory Technician

CRY Centre for Cardiac Pathology, Update: May – August 2011
Introduction

Over the past four months the centre has received 71 sudden death cases, very similar to the number of cases referred during the same period May – August 2010. The chart below shows each month by an individual colour so you can clearly compare months and the overall total for that period.

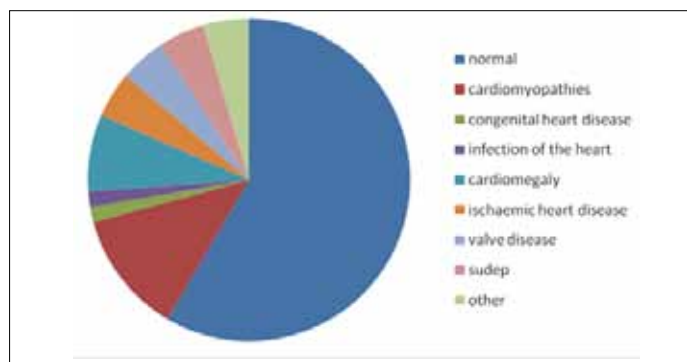


The graph below shows our average turnaround time per month for the period May – August in 2010 and 2011. Our aim is to provide a final report within 14 days of receipt of specimen - this 14 days target is highlighted by the green line. In August 2010 our average turnaround crept up slightly to 15 days which was due to the summer holiday period, however as you can see in 2011 the average turnaround has remained within our 14 day target even throughout this summer holiday period.



Diagnoses

The chart below shows only the diagnoses that were made during May - August 2011 indicating again that channelopathies predominate. We are following up the family in these cases with St George's clinical team, Professor Sanjay Sharma, Dr Elijah Behr and Dr Hari Raju.



Genetics

In April 2011 Dr Hari Raju got his pilot genetics study underway in collaboration with the Royal Brompton Hospital and St George's Hospital as detailed in the previous newsletter. This project is now several months in and we are receiving a small number of samples in the RNA later solution. More importantly though, more and more pathologists are aware of the importance of taking splenic tissue for potential future genetic testing and so we expect to receive more in the future.

Research

'Results of our fast track cardiac pathology service for victims of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in the UK' was presented as oral presentations at two international conferences in Europe and the United States. This work was also presented as a poster at the European Congress of Cardiology, Paris, 27-31 August and won 1st place in the poster session for 'Sudden cardiac death, prevention and therapeutic outcomes' a diploma in recognition of outstanding scientific work.

Katsuya Norita completed his BSc project on Vasculitis in May 2011. He is now a biomedical science graduate from Imperial College London and over the summer has been assisting Dr Sofia de Noronha with the current research projects. He received a research bursary from the Pathological Society of Great Britain

and Ireland for his research work. He gave an oral presentation on his work at the European Congress of Pathology annual meeting in Helsinki 27 August - 1 September. His presentation was very well received and his manuscript has been submitted to *Virchows Archiv*, a European publication.

An important collaboration is now underway with St George's Hospital Cardiology team and the MRI department at the Royal Brompton Hospital, both leaders in their fields of cardiomyopathy and Sudden Adult Death. We plan to do an MRI scan of the whole heart referred to Dr Sheppard prior to reporting, as an aid to Cardiologists in preventing sudden cardiac death.

Recent publications May – August 2011

1. Gulati A, Gheta R, Chan CF, Ismail NA, Sheppard MN, Kilner PJ, Magee AG. Longitudinal follow-up of a right atrial appendage aneurysm by cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. *Circulation* May 2011; 123(20):2289-2291
2. Sheppard MN. The fittest person in the morgue? *Histopathology* 2011 Jun 13 (epub ahead of print). Review article
3. Isabelle Roussin, Mary N Sheppard, Michael Rubens, Sam Kaddoura, John Pepper, Raad H Mohiaddin. Cardiovascular Complications of Cutis Laxa Syndrome: Successful Diagnosis and Surgical Management. *Circulation* 2011 Jul 5;124(1):100-2
4. Sheppard MN. Valve pathology: a dying trade. Editorial. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* Jul 2011

5. Miragoli M, Gorelik J, Sheppard MN. A protective anti arrhythmic role of ursodeoxycholic acid in an in-vitro rat model of the cholestatic fetal heart. *Hepatology*. 2011 Aug 1. [Epub ahead of print]
6. Sheppard MN. Guide to cardiac autopsy. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* – in press. Review article.

Cardiovascular Pathology e-podcasts for the Royal College of Pathologists, e-learning material based upon Hunterian museum specimens. Available to view online at <http://www.e-pathpots.org.uk/>

Meetings attended

Dr Sheppard was invited to attend an expert seminar on medical theories and research relating to restraint related deaths for the independent advisory panel (IAP) on deaths in custody in June 2011. We are submitting our paper on restraint related sudden deaths to the journal *Heart*.

Dr Sheppard was invited to three international meetings both as a chair and lecturer. She delivered the following lectures:

1. 'Autopsy in Young sudden death victims: An algorithm for the pathologist' at the European Society of Cardiology Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Drug Therapy in Copenhagen, 16-18 June 2011.
2. 'Acquired, non atherosclerotic coronary artery disease' at the European Society of Cardiology annual meeting in Paris, 27-31 August 2011.
3. 'Thoracic Vasculitis' at the Future European Congress of Pathology held in Helsinki, 27 August to 1 September 2011.

