

RESUME

DR. ALISON ARMOUR MB BCh BAO FRCPATH DMJ (Path)

CONSULTANT PATHOLOGIST, LANCASHIRE TEACHING HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

CONSULTANT HOME OFFICE PATHOLOGIST, LANCASHIRE AND CUMBRIA

Qualifications

- I am a Registered Medical Practitioner.
- I qualified in Medicine from the Queen's University Belfast in 1986 with a MB BCh BAO
- I am a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery.
- I passed the MRCPATH exam in November 1992.
- I obtained the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence in Pathology in July 1994.
- I became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2002.

Employment History/Experience

- I spent 1 year as a Junior House Officer on the Belfast rotation.
- I entered Pathology as a Senior House Officer in August 1987 employed at the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast.
- In May 1989 I was appointed as an Honorary Senior Registrar and Senior Lecturer in Pathology at Leeds University where I spent a year in a research post in Lymphoreticular Pathology. I then continued the rest of my training on the Leeds rotation. I passed the MRCPATH exam in November 1992.
- In February 1993 I was employed as a Senior Registrar in Forensic Pathology in the State Pathologists' Department in Belfast. I remained in Belfast for 4 years.
- I was appointed as a Consultant Pathologist in January 1997 at the Royal Preston Hospital where I still work today.
- In 1998 I was admitted onto the Home Office List for Pathologists. I have been practising as a Home Office Pathologist in the North West since 1999. In addition I have 4 years Forensic experience from Northern Ireland. I have been the Home Office Pathologist for Lancashire and Cumbria the last 14 years.
- I also provide an out-of-hours service on a 1 in 5 rota for the police forces-Merseyside, Cheshire, North Wales and the Isle of Man. My primary workload was between 80 to 100 cases a year but in the last 5 years this has been between 60 to 70 cases. These callouts relate to suspicious and homicidal deaths only. They also include cases of Sudden and Unexpected death in Infancy, which

comprise between 10 to 12 a year. I also provide opinions for the defence and in particular in cases of child deaths.

- I have also been instructed by the General Medical Council in a fitness to practice hearing for a case of serious professional misconduct. I have also been instructed by solicitors on behalf of the Medical Defence Unions in the case of two Doctors charged with serious professional misconduct. I have carried out many, many autopsies on suspicious and homicidal deaths. I have also been involved in 2 exhumations and have frequently given evidence in court. These courts include the Crown Court, Coroners Court, Magistrates' Court, at the GMC and at the Court of Appeal. I was the Chief Pathologist in the Cockle Pickers Tragedy in Morecambe Bay, Tebay Tragedy and Morecambe Bay Helicopter Tragedy.
- I have received three commendations in my career to date from The Chief Constables of Merseyside, British Transport Police and Cumbria for my work as a Home Office Pathologist. These were for the case R V Bowman, Merseyside Police, the Tebay tragedy, British Transport Police and R-v- Robert Wilson, Cumbria Constabulary. I also provide medicolegal opinions for the living in cases of serious assault. I act both the prosecution and for the defence although it is fair to say that my work is mainly for the prosecution. Whilst in Northern Ireland I also assisted at the Mass disasters of the Shankill Bombing, Greysteele and Loughinisland.
- I have carried out many autopsies at the behest of Her Majesty's Coroner (Coronial autopsies). I started carrying out these autopsies during my training period in Northern Ireland some time in 1988. I continued this practice until the end of March 2003. I no longer carry out routine Coronial autopsies due to my workload. As I still work as a full-time NHS pathologist along with my Home Office commitments my NHS colleagues would often ask for my advice and opinion in some of their routine Coronial autopsies. As a member of the North West Home Office Pathologist practice group we frequently discuss our difficult and interesting cases.
- As already stated I am also a full-time NHS employed by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. I take an equal part in the general rota along with my other 9 Consultant Histopathology colleagues. We also have two Consultant Neuropathologists. As a result of progressive specialisation within histopathology I am the Lead Pathologist for Lymphoreticular Pathology and have fulfilled this role almost from 1997 when I was appointed.
- I was also the network lead for lymphoreticular pathology for the network of Lancashire and South Cumbria from 2008/9 to 2011. The workload to the present day would comprise between 660 to 730 cases per year. This includes any possible case of haematological malignancy. However, the majority of the workload would be lymph node biopsies, spleens and bone marrow trephine biopsies. I am frequently asked for a second expert opinion from cases around the locality. Part of my NHS job also includes teaching junior medical staff and there is a structured formal teaching for lymphoreticular pathology once a week which I

lead. I also deputise for the subspecialty of ENT pathology and teach death certification to medical students, junior medical staff and senior medical staff.

- I am also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire where I have lectured the subject of forensic pathology to final year forensic science students from around 2002/2003. I also set the final exam questions at the end of the academic year and moderate the marking scheme. I also give lectures to the biomedical science students in the subject of haematological malignancy.

Below is a summary of my presentations and publications. Due to my work load I no longer write papers or am involved in research in any way.

Presentations

- Myeloproliferative disorders in semi-thin sections a histological classification. Irish Branch ACP. May. 1988. Cork.
- Immunoperoxidase staining in plastic embedded bone marrow trephine biopsies. Irish Branch ACP. Nov. 1988. Galway. Poster presentation Path Society. Jan. 1989. London
- Jelly in the bone marrow. An individual case report. Irish Branch ACP. Nov. 1989. Craigavon.
- Expression of cell adhesion molecules in Hodgkin's disease. Poster presentation Path Society. Jan. 1991. Cambridge.
- Expression of cell adhesion molecules in follicular lymphoma. Poster presentation Path Society. Jul. 1991. Belfast.
- Nosological Inaccuracies in Death Certification in Northern Ireland: A comparative study of hospital doctors and general practitioners. Irish Branch ACP. April 1996. Derry. Awarded first prize.
- The Harmful Effects of Ecstasy. Annual Seminar for Post Mortem Room Technicians. June 1996. Craigavon.
- Nosological Inaccuracies in Death Certification in Northern Ireland: A comparative study of hospital doctors and general practitioners. Oral Presentation Path Society. Jul 1996.
- Death on the needle. Lancashire Medical School. Grand Round. Royal Preston Hospital. March 1997.
- The harmful effects of Ecstasy. Postgraduate Centre Sharoe Green Hospital. Postgraduate education GPs and Hospital Medical Staff. April 1997.

- Gunshot suicides. Why do they do it? The Medico-Legal Society. February 1998 and Preston 98 – Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers December 1998.
- Death Certification. What to do and what not to do. Junior and Senior Medical Staff. January 1999.
- “Arms” in Belfast. The Medico- Legal Society. March 1999.
- Gunshot Suicides. Preston Professional Business Women’s’ Association. October 1999.
- The Mass disaster. The role of the Pathologist. Lancashire Constabulary. October and November 1999.
- Y2K planning. The mass disaster and mortuary planning. Lancashire Constabulary. November and December 1999.
- Death Certification and Cremation. Preston GPs and hospital Doctors. October 2000.

Publications

- Armour A., Kelly B., Bharucha H. 1989. Immunoperoxidase staining in plastic embedded bone marrow trephine biopsies. *Journal of Pathology*, Vol.15, 2: 168a.
- Armour A., Jack A.S. 1991. Expression of cell adhesion molecules in Hodgkin's disease. *Journal of Pathology*, Vol.1632: 172 a.
- Armour A., Jack A.S. 1991. Expression of cell adhesion molecules in follicular lymphoma. *Journal of Pathology*, Vol.164, 4:351 a.
- Armour A., Bharucha H. 1996 Nosological Inaccuracies in Death Certification in Northern Ireland: A comparative study of hospital doctors and general practitioners. *Journal of Pathology*, Vol.179: 13a.
- Armour A., Williamson J.M.S. 1993. Ectopic Hamartomatous Thymoma showing myoid differentiation. *Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, Vol.170 (2) 155 158.
- Williamson J.M.S., Armour A. 1993. Microcystic endometrioid carcinoma of the fallopian tube simulating an adnexal tumour of probable Wolfian origin. *Histopathology*, Vol. 23 (6) 578 580.
- Armour A. 1996. A study of gunshot suicides in Northern Ireland from 1989 to 1993. *Science and Justice*, Vol. 36 (1) 21 25.
- Armour A., Bharucha H. 1997 Nosological inaccuracies in death certification in

Northern Ireland. The Ulster Medical Journal, Vol. 66 (1) 13- 17.

- Armour A. 1997 Dilutional Hyponatraemia: A cause of massive fatal intraoperative cerebral oedema in a child undergoing renal transplantation. A Case Report. J Clin Path, Vol 50 (5) 444-446.