



FRCPath Medical Microbiology Preparation: A Strategic Approach

Hyderabad, India
6 – 7th December 2025

Faculty

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Dr. Sai Shruti Iyer, MBBS, MD, FRCPath,

Head - Microbiology and Infection Control, Sankara Eye Foundation India, Hyderabad

Ania Swann, RGN, RSCN, BSc (Hons), PGCert (Remote presentation)

Lead Nurse Infection Prevention & Control, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Programme

Day 1: 06.12.2025

Time	Topic	Description	Speakers
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome, Objective and Housekeeping		
9:15 – 9:45	FRCPath introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the exam for• Requirements for this exam• Is it right for you? What advantage will you get by doing FRCPath (UK)• What exam to take - CICE, part 1 infection or microbiology• Preparation time• Pass rate and scoring system• What advice are UK registrars given when they prepare for the exam• Q&A	Dr Surya

Time	Topic	Description	Speakers
9:45 – 11:30	Question analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question type • How are the questions made • Question areas that are favoured • How to tailor your preparation to answer these questions • How to answer the questions - strategy • System-specific high-yield areas <p><i>We cannot discuss questions from past years. It is not allowed by RCPATH, but we will be able to give you a fairly good idea from our experience supervising trainees for > 10 years and first-hand experience of the examination</i></p>	Dr Shruti Dr Safaa Dr Surya
11:30 - 11:45	Tea/Coffee		
11:45 – 12:15	Preparing for part 1 – Exam Strategy, preparation, and exam experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to do gap analysis. Plan for the revision, model plan, question analysis, and Exam strategy • (Optional for part 2 candidates) 	Dr Shruti Dr Safaa Dr Surya
12:15 – 13:00	Preparation strategy for part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap analysis, Revision plan, Practical tips, Exam game plan, 	Dr Shruti Dr Safaa Dr Surya
13:00 – 14:00	UK healthcare system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of a microbiologist • What do ID, virology, tropical medicine, and sexual health services do? • NHS framework - estate, IPC, management • NHS lab - DGH lab, reference lab, specialist labs • UKHSA • Community clinical system - GP, care home, nursing home • How the clinical service in the UK runs • UK microbiology training programme 	Dr Surya
14:00 - 14:45	Lunch		

Time	Topic	Description	Speakers
14:45 – 15:45	Resources for the exam	What resources must you use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to read SMI • How to read EUCAST • HTM • Journals • Books • Courses • Questions • Greenbook etc • How you can use AI safely and effectively (prompt engineering) 	Dr Shruti Dr Safaa Dr Surya
15:45 - 16:45	Antibiogram analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common resistance mechanisms and how to identify them from the antibiogram. • What to read about antibiotics 	
16:45 - 17:00	Coffee/tea		
17:00 - 18:00	Interactive Q & A session and networking		Dr Shruti Dr Safaa Dr Surya

Day 2: 07.12.2025

Time	Topic	Description	Speakers
9:00 – 9:15	Recap		
9:15 – 9:45	What after FRCPPath?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities in India • Opportunities in the UK • UK landscape • Registration routes • CV • Shortlisting and interview • CESR 	Dr Safaa Dr Shruti Dr Surya
9:45 – 11:00	Clinical decision making (Real-life example)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand management decision making • Uncertainty of measurement decision making • Authorisation - result-based decision making • Types of calls - common types of calls and decision-making principles • Negative scenarios 	Dr Surya

Time	Topic	Description	Speakers
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee/tea		
11:45 – 12:30	Clinical decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue. 	Dr Surya
12:30 – 13:30	Case discussion with components of Infection control,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How we manage HCAI (case-based) - C difficile, MRSA, Measles, TB (in NHS), etc Outbreak management - 	Dr Surya
13:30 – 14:15	Lunch		
14:15 – 16:30	Water safety, ventilation, and decontamination	<p>Various aspects of water safety (Legionella control, Pseudomonas control), Theatre ventilation, pressurised rooms (PPV, NPV, PPVL), and endoscope decontamination. Experience of a senior NHS IPC nurse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory Discussion of real-life problems faced in the hospital (based on the type of questions asked in the exam) 	Dr Surya Ania Swan (Senior IPC nurse - TBC)
16:30 – 16:45	Break		
16:45 - 17:15	Test paper	Two 30-minute test papers (one part 1 and one part 2) to give an idea of the type of exam questions (not marked)	
17:15 - 18:00	AMA/review of paper		Dr Surya Dr Safaa Dr Shruti



FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Suryabrata Banerjee, MBBS, FRCPath

Consultant Microbiologist & Clinical Lead, Medical Microbiology and Virology

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

Dr. Banerjee brings over two decades of comprehensive NHS experience to FRCPath preparation, having successfully navigated the UK training pathway from SAS doctor to specialist registrar to consultant status. Since achieving his FRCPath in 2014, he has served as a consultant microbiologist for over 10 years, with the last two years as Clinical Lead for Medical Microbiology and Virology. His deep understanding of the UK healthcare system, combined with his role as a trained clinical safety officer, provides invaluable insights into the practical aspects of UK microbiology practice that are essential for FRCPath success.

As founder and lead educator of the microregistrar programme, Dr. Banerjee has mentored over 350 trainees, including numerous successful FRCPath candidates from the UK and overseas. His expertise in clinical supervision and educational supervision within the UK infection training programme gives him unique insights into the examination expectations and the specific knowledge gaps that international candidates commonly face. His experience spans the full spectrum of NHS laboratory operations, infection control protocols, and clinical decision-making processes that form the core of FRCPath examination content.

Dr. Banerjee's commitment to modern educational approaches is demonstrated through his specialized training in healthcare AI and prompt engineering, enabling him to provide cutting-edge guidance on using technology effectively in exam preparation. His comprehensive knowledge of UK microbiology practice, combined with his proven track record in training successful FRCPath candidates, makes him an ideal mentor for aspiring microbiologists seeking to excel in this challenging qualification.

Dr. Safaa Muneer Ahmed, MD, CIC®, FRCPath

Group Head - Clinical Microbiology & Hospital Infection Control

Renova Group of Hospitals / Consultant, Tenet Diagnostics, Hyderabad, India

Dr. Ahmed represents the gold standard of FRCPath achievement, having successfully completed her Fellowship in Medical Microbiology from the Royal College of Pathologists (2017-2024) while practicing in India. Her journey from MD Microbiology gold medallist to FRCPath holder provides a unique perspective on the challenges and strategies needed for international candidates. Her dual certification as FRCPath and CIC® (Certified in Infection Control) from CBIC demonstrates her comprehensive expertise in both clinical microbiology and infection prevention, key areas heavily emphasized in the FRCPath examination.

Currently serving as Group Head of Clinical Microbiology & Hospital Infection Control, Dr. Ahmed has extensive experience in molecular diagnostics, antimicrobial stewardship, and clinical decision-making across multiple healthcare settings. Her research contributions on SARS-CoV-2 variants and antimicrobial resistance, along with her Fellowship in Infectious Diseases from Medigrad (Singapore), provide her with the contemporary knowledge base essential for guiding candidates through the evolving landscape of medical microbiology that the FRCPath examination demands.

Dr. Ahmed's combination of academic excellence, practical experience, and successful FRCPath completion makes her an invaluable resource for candidates seeking to understand the examination requirements from an Indian healthcare perspective. Her ongoing pursuit of FIID certification and her expertise in molecular diagnostics ensure that her guidance reflects the latest developments in clinical microbiology practice, crucial for candidates preparing for this internationally recognized qualification.

Dr. Sai Shruti Iyer, MBBS, MD, FRCPath

Head - Microbiology and Infection Control

Sankara Eye Foundation India, Hyderabad

Dr. Iyer brings a unique perspective as a current FRCPath candidate (2022-2025) who understands the contemporary examination landscape and the specific challenges faced by candidates today. Her role as Head of Microbiology and Infection Control at Sankara Eye Foundation India, combined with her specialized expertise as an Ocular Microbiologist, provides insight into specialized areas of microbiology that are increasingly relevant in FRCPath examinations. Her extensive experience across major diagnostic laboratories, including over four years at Dr. Lal PathLabs, gives her comprehensive understanding of laboratory operations and quality management systems.

Her research excellence, demonstrated through recognition including the Best Paper in Virology award from IAMM (2019) and ICMR Fellowship reward, reflects the academic rigor expected in FRCPath preparation. Dr. Iyer's expertise in molecular virology, antimicrobial stewardship, and rare fungal infections provides candidates with insights into both common and specialized topics that frequently appear in FRCPath examinations. Her experience with emerging pathogens and rare infections such as rhinosporidiosis offers valuable perspectives on the differential diagnosis and clinical decision-making skills essential for examination success.

As an active educator conducting CPHIC programmes and workshops on infection prevention and control, Dr. Iyer understands the pedagogical approaches most effective for adult learners preparing for professional examinations. Her current journey through the FRCPath process, combined with her extensive clinical and research experience, enables her to provide practical, contemporary guidance on examination preparation strategies and the evolving expectations of the Royal College of Pathologists.

Ania Swann, RGN, RSCN, BSc (Hons), PGCert

Lead Nurse Infection Prevention & Control

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Ania brings nearly four decades of NHS experience and specialized expertise in infection prevention and control, areas that form critical components of the FRCPATH examination. Since joining the Infection Prevention & Control team at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in 2005, she has developed comprehensive expertise in operational IPC management, decontamination processes, and the built environment aspects of infection control. Her BSc in Practice Development (Infection Control) and Post Graduate Certificate in Health and Social Care Leadership provide her with both theoretical knowledge and practical leadership skills essential for understanding NHS infection control frameworks.

Her specialized knowledge in decontamination of endoscopy and semi-critical devices, water safety management, and IPC in the built environment directly addresses key areas frequently examined in FRCPATH papers. Ania's particular expertise in urinary catheterization management, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and gram-negative bloodstream infection prevention reflects the practical infection control challenges that microbiologists must understand for both clinical practice and examination success. Her experience in outbreak management and clinical investigations provides invaluable insights into the systematic approaches to infection control that are essential knowledge for FRCPATH candidates.

As a senior NHS infection control practitioner, Ania offers a unique nursing perspective on multidisciplinary infection prevention and control teams, helping candidates understand the collaborative nature of infection control practice in the UK healthcare system. Her extensive experience in day-to-day operational management of IPC issues, combined with her passion for patient safety and practice improvement, provides practical insights that bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application essential for FRCPATH success.

