



Dr Suzy Lishman  
Guest Bulletin Editor

## Welcome to the National Pathology Week special issue

**H**appy New Year and welcome to this special edition of the *Bulletin*. As well as the usual content, you'll see that the Public Engagement section is devoted to National Pathology Week. Preparation for this edition coincided with the Editor's trip to Australia, giving me the perfect opportunity to be guest editor, and giving pathologists around the country the chance to share their experiences of National Pathology Week.



**National Pathology Week**

3–9 November 2008

### **National Pathology Week**

The first National Pathology Week took place from 3–9 November 2008. Over 320 events took place around the country, involving every pathology specialty and every region. The number and quality of events outstripped everyone's hopes and expectations and provided a wonderful opportunity for all professional groups and pathology disciplines to work together to raise awareness of the specialty. In the Public Engagement section, pathologists and scientists share their experiences of the week, which appear to have been overwhelmingly positive. Don't miss the announcement on page 58 about whether National Pathology Week will be held again in 2009.

### **New President and Officers**

This is also a special edition of the *Bulletin* as it is the first under the leadership of Professor Peter Furness, who took over as President in November. Presidents inevitably stamp their own style on how the College operates, and we look forward to seeing the direction in which Peter takes us. As well as a new President, three new Vice Chairmen, a new Treasurer and several Council members were elected last year and took office in November. Short biographies of seven of them are included on pages 77 to 79.

### **The Carter Report**

If you read only one thing in the *Bulletin* (apart from the National Pathology Week coverage, of course), make sure it's the College's response to the long-awaited Carter Report, which was

published in December. The Report and the response from the Department of Health, which was published at the same time, are available on the Department of Health website ([www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Secondarycare/Pathology/DH\\_075531](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Secondarycare/Pathology/DH_075531)). If you have any comments to add to the College's preliminary response, please pass them to your Regional Chairman or a member of Council.

### **Revalidation**

Also long awaited, although perhaps not so eagerly, is the implementation of revalidation. In the Professional Standards section, the Director of Professional Standards gives an update on progress and the President reports on the feedback from a group of College Fellows on the perceived challenges of revalidation. Some of the responses highlight the importance of communication between Fellows and the College and the misunderstandings that can arise when this is not as good as it could be. The President, Officers and Council members are all very keen to hear from fellows about any issues of concern so please get in touch; all contact details are available on the website.

### **Regional Councils**

On the subject of communication, do you know what your Regional Council does or how you can get involved in College activities locally? On page 87, the Chairmen of two of the College's eleven Regional Councils explain what they do and how you can join them. National Pathology Week has shown the importance and benefits of public engagement as well as the important role that the Regional Councils play in ensuring that pathologists in all parts of the country have the chance to be involved. Each Regional Council will soon be appointing someone to co-ordinate local public engagement activities, so get in touch with your Chairman if you are interested.

### College Tutors

Elsewhere in this edition there's an update for College Tutors on the future of their role and what they're likely to be called, following an email survey earlier this year. College Tutors are the College's contacts in every trust in the country and are a very important group, with a unique insight into the state of training, CPD and workforce.

### Lay Advisory Committee

This publication also contains citations for two new Friends of the College, who were admitted at the Annual General Meeting in November. I have had the pleasure of working with both Madeleine Wang and Gordon Cropper on the Lay Advisory Committee (LAC) for the last three years and am delighted that their contribution to the work of the College has been recognised in this way. The LAC is a vital part of how the College operates, providing a lay perspective on everything from the new undergraduate curriculum to how to update the website. The LAC was particularly supportive of National Pathology Week and helped focus the educational resources produced on the needs of the public. There are vacancies on the LAC so if you know of anyone non-medical but with an interest in health and patient experience, please contact Charlotte Balazs at the College.

### Advisory Appointments Committees representatives

As this is likely to be my only chance to write the editorial for the *Bulletin* I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the advert on page 103. The College prides itself in being involved in the appointment process for every consultant pathologist in the country, from approving the job description to ensuring that the appointment process is conducted fairly. This benefits both pathologists and Trusts, and is coordinated by Reshma Patel in the Workforce Department. For the second part of the process to work, we need more pathologists to volunteer as representatives on Appointments Advisory Committees (AACs). You won't be called upon very often and you are free to decline if the date is not convenient, so you have nothing to lose by registering. Those pathologists in management posts are encouraged to release colleagues to attend AACs; this makes it more likely that someone will be available the next time an interview panel is convened in their Trust.

I hope that you enjoy this special edition of the *Bulletin* and look forward to highlighting more public engagement events in the future.

**Suzy Lishman**  
**Assistant Registrar**  
**National Pathology Week Lead**



*Professor John Croall*  
*Bulletin Editor*

## Some words of thanks

Due to my month-long absence in the Antipodes at the end of 2008 I asked Suzy Lishman to guest edit the *Bulletin*. As she was so heavily involved in organising and inspiring National Pathology Week it is also appropriate that this issue is largely dedicated to all the events that occurred around the country in support of it. So, Suzy,

please accept many thanks from me and the rest of the Publications team.

**Professor John Croall**  
**Editor**  
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