

The views expressed in the statements are the views of the candidate and not those of the College

Professor Sarah Coupland

President

I am an experienced senior academic pathologist of international background based in Liverpool, specialising in Haematopathology, Molecular- and Ophthalmic Pathology and hold the 'George Holt Chair of Pathology' (University of Liverpool), leading the 'Liverpool-Ocular-Oncology-Research-Group' (LOORG). Until recently, I was also Director of the 'North West Cancer Research Centre@UoL'.

Throughout my career I have engaged with the College but I have not previously sat on any RCPATH committees. I think now is an opportune time for me to use my experience in leadership and strategy oversight, instigating change, teaching, research and in mentoring, to take on the challenge of RCPATH Presidency. The value of my experience and background was recently highlighted when I received a 2019 RCPATH Excellence Award, and I was included in the Pathologist Top 100 Power List 2019, as a trailblazer, mentor and influencer.

As RCPATH President, my first aim would be to push forward the work of the College's Undergraduate and Foundation group in curricular development and engagement, by promoting diagnostic and academic Pathology as a key pillar of Medical School curricula. I will directly engage with Medical, Dental and Veterinary schools to introduce novel didactic pathology teaching methods (e.g. virtual slides/reality, 3D-printing). This would expand on the 'Digital Now' initiative by the College and HEE, and make Pathology a focus point of undergraduate training and an attractive postgraduate specialty.

This complements my second aim, which is to increase the recruitment of motivated individuals to our specialty, and retain them within our workforce. Through engagement with relevant external stakeholders (e.g. HEE/IBMS/GMC/AoMS/NIHR), a critical mass of future diagnostic and academic pathologists, BMS/BMS Consultants, in all subspecialties, would be achieved.

Delivery of a cross-disciplinary, clinically-orientated and academic pathology teaching programme, is essential for the creation of a biomedical-, medical-, dental- and veterinary graduates with both practical aptitude and innovative thinking. I can help enthuse such a programme through the extensive teaching experience I've gained over ~15 years working with national/international trainees in varying disciplines and nurturing students at different levels: from school pupils through to postgraduates. Further, I have supported early career researchers in my role as NWCRC@UoL Director, and have helped progress careers of female staff, as Athena Swan Lead.

Finally, I am driven to see RCPATH improve knowledge of 'disruptive technologies' (e.g. molecular and digital pathology, AI, systems pathology) amongst College members, to realise the true potential of these novel diagnostic tools. As Molecular Pathology lead of the newly-commissioned North-West Genomics Laboratory Hub, I'm at the forefront of delivery and understand how important equity-of-access to cutting-edge analyses is for comprehensive diagnoses and improved patient outcomes. Through public-engagement, the support of national initiatives (e.g. NHS-Digital, InnovateUK) and attracting both public and private investments, I will work to ensure that RCPATH and our specialty are at the centre of such healthcare innovation.

I believe I have the necessary commitment, skills, experience, expertise, energy and enthusiasm for the role of RCPATH President. With your support, I will deliver on my plan.

Professor Sarah Coupland

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