



The Royal College of Pathologists  
Pathology: the science behind the cure

## RCPATH President's newsletter – May 2023



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**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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### President's Message

#### [Dr Bernie Croal – appointed President Elect](#)

I was delighted that Dr Bernie Croal has been elected as President Elect of the College.

Bernie will bring a wealth of insight to the role, both from his extensive clinical experience as well from his time serving as a College Trustee. He has worked in a number of roles, most recently as Chair of [RCPATH Scotland Regional Council](#).

I also know he will do an excellent job of representing all our members across all 17 specialties both in the UK and internationally.

#### **Prioritising suspected cancer patients for diagnostic capacity**

[NHS England has written](#) to integrated care boards and trusts setting out the need to prioritise improvements to wait times for patients referred for urgent suspected cancer over the coming year.

I was featured in the [Daily Mail](#) about the announcement of support for pathology services, which we welcome. This will help our members provide the quicker diagnoses that patients need. We have long asked for improvements in digital pathology and infrastructure to help provide better patient care.

### **RCPATH Qualitative Survey 2023**

We want to support you in your practice and in your development. Please tell us what is happening at work and the pressure points you are facing, so that we know what you need from us.

You should have received [this short survey](#) to complete. There are just 13 questions in which we ask how you feel about issues such as your work environment and whether you feel valued at work. It will take around 5 minutes for you to fill in the survey and contact details, and you can do it on your phone, laptop or tablet. The closing date for responses is **Friday 26 May 2023**. We will not share your information with anybody else and we follow the [RCPATH Privacy Policy](#) closely.

### **The [College Workforce Survey](#) is also open until Friday 26 May.**

This survey will give us the core data we need to build a clear picture of workforce capacity and demand which, in turn, will inform the insights and intelligence that underpins our advocacy work.

The survey has been sent to Clinical Directors and covers workload, staffing, vacancies, locum cover and the working environment.

If you have any queries regarding either survey, please contact [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org)

### **Engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders**

- The [APPG for Diagnostics](#), a joint initiative with the Royal College of Radiologists, will hold its next meeting on 24 May in parliament. Prof Peter Johnson, National Clinical Director of Cancer, will be speaking about the current diagnostic landscape.
- Prof Angharad Davies, Vice President for Learning, spoke at an APPG meeting on antimicrobial resistance organised by the [APPG on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases](#) and Malaria No More UK.

**National Pathology Week 2023 19–25  
June**

I am looking forward to celebrating NPW in June and seeing the events you will be holding.

This year's theme is 'Pathologists and Patients' and we are encouraging you to use NPW to highlight the essential work you do for patients in preventing, diagnosing and treating disease.

**Professor Mike Osborn**  
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A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at  
[RCPATH newsletters](#)

## Working for members

### **Neuropathology Workforce Report published**

As part of the RCPATH Meeting Pathology Demand series, the College collaborated with the British Neuropathological Society (BNS) to carry out a survey of the neuropathology workforce.

The College has published [The neuropathology workforce: challenges and solutions](#). The intention of the survey was to help determine whether there is the right number of staff with the right skills in the right places to ensure safe and effective high-quality patient care and support. Like many pathologists, neuropathologists have a role in the direct management and treatment of patients as well as interpreting data derived from diagnostic tests and establishing neuropathological diagnoses.

The College and BNS has set out recommendations and related actions to support the specialty. To find out more and read the report, please visit the [College website](#). For further information, please contact [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org)

### **Percy Oliver Memorial Award**

The College's Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) is inviting nominations for this year's Percy Oliver Memorial Award.

The Memorial Award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year's category is TM Nursing.

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Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the SAC for consideration by 5pm on Wednesday 31 May 2023 via Louise Mair at the Royal College of Pathologists: [louise.mair@rcpath.org](mailto:louise.mair@rcpath.org)

Please use the citation to describe your nominee's background, achievements and contributions to the field of blood transfusion, in no more than 750 words. Furthermore, please demonstrate the impact that they have made to the field.

### **Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary**

The Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary offers £250 per candidate to cover travel and accommodation costs to enable their participation in a national or international blood transfusion meeting. To apply, you need to be a trainee clinician or clinical scientist enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme and working in the field of transfusion medicine.

We are pleased to announce the availability of 2 awards for attendance at the [2023 Annual SHOT Symposium](#) being held on Tuesday 4 July at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, and 2 further awards for attendance at the NHSBT R&D conference. The 2022 Annual SHOT Report will be released at the SHOT Symposium and the programme covers key haemovigilance and transfusion safety-related topics with an opportunity to learn from blood donor and transfusion recipients' experiences and transfusion experts.

Further details and an application form can be [downloaded from the website](#). Deadline for applications is **5pm on Thursday 1 June 2023**.

### **The Pathology Portal**

The portal goes from strength to strength, with the first set of reproductive sciences [materials now available](#) and a fabulous [frozen section folder](#), which brings together scarce learning materials on this key area.

Haematology resources are being uploaded and arranged, and the clinical biochemistry editorial team are now working hard on getting materials up for the very keen trainees.

Genomics learning is being coordinated onto the portal, and there is a wealth of key resources here too.

### **CPD submission deadline**

Your CPD submission deadline for 2022/2023 is 30 September 2023. To submit your return, please go to [www.rcpath.org](http://www.rcpath.org)

If you have any queries, please contact the Member Engagement & Support team on 020 7451 6720 or by email at: [cpd@rcpath.org](mailto:cpd@rcpath.org)

## **Public Engagement**

### **[National Pathology Week 2023 – 19–25 June](#)**

If you're running an event for NPW in your hospital or local community, please tell us about it by registering it on our website. We'll be highlighting member-led events in our social media posts, and we are also looking for events that MPs and local councillors can be invited to.

The College will be celebrating NPW by running an exciting programme of online events including the [RCPATH Book Club](#) featuring 'Quackery: A Brief History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything', virtual 'Pathology Pub Quizzes' for undergraduates, and 'Discovering Cells', an art-science workshop with [Dr Lizzie Burns](#). Check out the [NPW page](#) for more information.

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Please do get involved in any way you can. If you're posting on Twitter or Instagram, please use the hashtags #PathologyWeek and #PathologistsAndPatients.

### [Sign up as a Pathology Ambassador](#)

We are excited to introduce the [Pathology Ambassadors scheme](#). The scheme offers an easy way to get involved in science and medicine-themed events and activities with young people in your area. Pathology Ambassadors is run in collaboration with [STEM Learning UK](#) and is part of their [STEM Ambassadors scheme](#). Find out more about Pathology Ambassadors on our [website](#), and feel free to [get in touch](#) if you have any questions.

### [Apply for funding for your pathology-themed public events](#)

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers the chance to get up to £1,000 for your public events and activities. Apply using the form [on our website](#) by 1 July. Read about past recipients for inspiration [here](#).

### **National Pathology Week Pathology Quizzes for Undergraduates**

We're running our popular 'Virtual Pathology Pub Quiz' events for undergraduates during [National Pathology Week 2023](#). Please share these event booking links with undergraduates studying relevant courses:

- [Virtual Pathology 'Pub Quiz' for Medical and Biomedical Undergraduates – 21 June](#)
- [Virtual Veterinary Pathology 'Pub Quiz for Veterinary Undergraduates – 23 June](#)

### [Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize – closes 22 May](#)

This competition offers UK Foundation doctors the chance to explore how pathology makes a difference to patients, as well as a unique opportunity to boost CVs ahead of applying for specialty training. Prize winners will be awarded £250, will have their essay published on our website and in the College magazine, the *Bulletin*, and will be presented with a certificate at an RCPATH event.

### [RCPATH Science Communication Essay Prize – closes 17 July 2023](#)

This competition is kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and open to pathology trainees, Foundation doctors and undergraduates who have shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year. Each winner in the trainee and undergraduate category (which includes UK undergraduates and Foundation doctors) will receive £500 and be invited to accept their prize at the College's New Fellows' Ceremony.

### [Art of Pathology Competition – closes 31 August 2023](#)

This competition is kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and is open to UK and international entrants. There are 3 categories for entries: under 11s, 11–17 and adults (over 18). This year's theme is 'Pathologists and Patients'. Participants were invited to interpret this theme in their own unique and creative way, while exploring different aspects of pathology. Winners of each age category can win up to £1,000!

**Get involved at the College**

### **Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee – Chair vacancy**

Professor Roberto La Ragione has extended his term as Chair to the Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee until November 2023, to allow us time to appoint a new chair.

The recruitment has started with details on the College [website](#). We would be grateful if you could please share and tweet the [link](#) across your networks and encourage colleagues to apply to chair this lovely committee.

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The deadline for applications is Friday 19 May at 5pm. Please note that existing members of the committee are welcome to apply for the role.

Testimonial from Professor Roberto La Ragione, Chair of the Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee:

“I have chaired the Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) for almost 7 years, and thoroughly enjoyed the role. As an SAC chair you can make a real difference to the profession, through supporting trainees and qualified pathologists and microbiologists. The role also provides a unique opportunity to interface with the profession and represent veterinary pathology within the College and with other organisations, such as Defra, RCVS and BVA. If you would like to discuss the role further, please contact me via email – [r.laragione@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:r.laragione@surrey.ac.uk)”

### **NQAAP Chair needed for Immunology and Reproductive Science**

The College is recruiting chairs for immunology and reproductive science to join the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panels. For more information and details on how to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#). Completed applications for NQAAP Chair for Immunology should be returned by Thursday 25 May 2023 and by Tuesday 30 May 2023 for the NQAAP Chair for Reproductive Science.

### **Clinical Director of Publishing and Engagement**

We have a vacancy in the Communications Directorate that offers a College fellow the opportunity to get involved in a number of exciting areas of work.

The Clinical Director of Publishing and Engagement provides clinical advice on the development of new public engagement activities and supports the delivery of events. As *Bulletin* Editor, they take an overview of and shape the *Bulletin* content and theme, commissioning articles and liaising with contributors. For more information and to apply, visit the [College website](#).

## **International**

### **Opportunities to deliver lectures for an RCPATH international project**

In collaboration with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, and in conjunction with the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) Ghana Workforce Health Partnership, the International team is producing a series of pre-recorded lectures on topics across chemical pathology, haematology, histopathology (anatomical pathology) and microbiology, and are looking for volunteers to deliver lectures.

Please contact [international@rcpath.org](mailto:international@rcpath.org) to express your interest in delivering one of the following topics:

- Proteomic and Metabolomic techniques
  - current antibiotic management of multi-drug resistant Gram-negative bloodstream infections
  - Laboratory diagnosis of anaerobic infections
  - Recent advances in lymphoma pathology and diagnosis
  - My approach to renal biopsies.
-

## Regional news

### [RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2023 \(3 CPD points\)](#)

#### **Symposium to be held on 25 May 2023 in Belfast.**

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will also hear from the President Professor Mike Osborn and find out about the College's work in Northern Ireland.

This is a free event, but formal registration is required. The Symposium will be taking place in the morning between 9.30am and 1pm.

The event will be held in person only at Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

#### **Wales Symposium 2023 – Save the date!**

Symposium to be held on 19 July 2023 – to be held online.

### **Regional Surgeries (England)**

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are warmly invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. These are planned to be held in the time before College Council meets in order to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

The next round of regional surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Laszlo Igali ([laszlo.igali@rcpath.org](mailto:laszlo.igali@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)
- **London surgery:** Thursday 1 June 2023 at 2–3.30pm – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann ([rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org](mailto:rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (London)
- **North of England surgery:** Friday 19 May 2023 at 12.30–2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb ([ali.robb@rcpath.org](mailto:ali.robb@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)

## New publications

### **The *Bulletin***

The April 2023 issue of [the \*Bulletin\* is now available](#) and returns to the core work of pathologists – the science behind the cure. This issue features articles on gene therapies for haemophilia, new treatments for multiple myeloma, the RESTORE trial's development of in vitro red blood cells for transfusion and an extract from Dame Sally Davies' lecture on antimicrobial resistance.

In his editorial, Professor Mike Osborn discusses our new approach to collecting workforce data and the importance of this data for our advocacy work. Professor Osborn also covers the recent member

engagement tour and the important work of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for Diagnostics and for Bowel Cancer.

### **Clinical guidelines**

- [Tissue pathways for bone and soft tissue pathology](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of colorectal cancer](#)

### **Clinical guideline consultation**

The following guideline is open for consultation on the College website. We welcome your feedback. [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy in sickle cell disease and sickle trait persons](#) (closes 8 June)

## **College conferences and symposia**

### **[Digital Pathology Symposium – The Role of Digital Pathology in Training and Beyond – Hybrid Event](#)**

**15 June 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

This hybrid symposium will provide a complete overview of the role of digital pathology (DP) in training and beyond. It will explore a broad range of topics including:

- the process of integrating DP into a working pathology department and the role it plays for both trainees and consultants involved in training, including tips and tricks learned from real-life experiences
- the benefits of DP in teaching and revision and the future of RCPATH examinations in the digital era
- an overview to demystify artificial intelligence and review how this can help support pathologists both now and in the future
- additional topics surrounding DP such as ethical and environmental considerations.

The symposium is open to all practicing pathologists. It will be of particular interest to histopathology trainees and consultants involved in training (including educational supervisors and training programme directors).

This event will be an excellent primer for those embarking on their digital pathology journey whilst providing valuable insights for pathologists already in the process of using DP.

**We are delighted to offer 60 free spaces for in-person trainee delegates. These spaces are available to the first 60 trainee applicants so early registration is advised.**

### **[Cytopathology Study Day – Hybrid Event – Bookings now open](#)**

**6 July 2023**

**5CPD credits**

The programme will consist of a series of slide seminars covering specimen types such as urine, serous fluids, and samples from various sites including head & neck, respiratory tract and pancreatobiliary tract.

The format will be that of a short presentation (15 minutes) followed by an interactive slide seminar (45 minutes) using whole slide scans for the specimens and sites listed above. The meeting would be suitable for trainee and practising pathologists and BMS. The aims include

discussion of a diagnostic approach to various cytology specimens, the use of international terminology systems and good report writing.

### **Medical examiner training**

The College is the [lead medical royal college for medical examiners](#) and provides training for any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner. Participants will need to complete 26 mandatory e-learning modules and attend an entire face-to-face training day to receive a certificate of completion. The day includes short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. Medical examiner training is open only to medically qualified individuals who work in England and Wales.

New medical examiners who successfully complete the training and the e-learning modules will be invited to join the College as members.

### **[Medical Examiner training – Virtual](#)**

**Thursday 21 September 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

### **[Medical Examiner Training - Virtual \(rcpath.org\)](#)**

**Wednesday 6 December 2023**

**CPD credits: 6**

### **Medical examiner officer training**

The College also leads on the training of [medical examiner officers](#) (MEOs).

MEOs work closely with medical examiners and undertake tasks such as coordinating the completion of death certificates and referrals to the coroner, and speaking to clinicians and bereaved families.

MEOs may come from a wide range of backgrounds. For example, nurses, healthcare scientists or bereavement officers although this list is not exhaustive. More information, including a [model job description](#), is on the [College website](#).

The face-to-face training day is the second part of MEO training. Everyone attending the course must have completed the 26 mandatory core e-learning modules before the date of the course to get the most out of the training day. The e-learning modules [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required.)

### **[Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training](#)**

**Thursday 29 June 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

### **[Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training](#)**

**Friday 15 September**

**CPD credits: 6**

### **[Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training](#)**

**Wednesday 15 November**

**CPD credits: 6**



## News from external organisations

### **The NHS Assembly: NHS@75 – An invitation to have your say**

NHS England are undertaking a large, rapid project around the 75th Birthday of the NHS on the 5 July and they would like your input.

Your contributions to this conversation, no matter how brief or in-depth, will be very valuable.

Please see the [Conversation Guide](#) and then feedback on the questions via the [online form](#) by **23:59pm on Friday 26 May**.

The NHS Assembly plans to summarise insights in a short public report ahead of the 75th Birthday; and to inform more detailed work as part of its ongoing role in advising the NHS England Board.

For further information, please contact: [england.nhs75engagement@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhs75engagement@nhs.net)

### **[Lab Tests Online-UK Annual report 2022](#)**

Lab Tests Online-UK is a free-to-access resource, developed by NHS laboratory professionals. It provides detailed descriptions of tests, conditions and illnesses, and news on the latest advances in laboratory medicine.

The website is non-commercial and free to access, with support provided by the Association of Clinical Biochemistry, the Institute of Biomedical Science and RCPATH.

## Other external events of interest

[23–24 May 2023](#)

[Non Operative Breast Pathology Update Course](#)

[24 May 2023](#)

[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies “What's new for 2023”](#)

[24 May 2023](#)

[4th AML Mini Academy](#)

[24–25 May 2023](#)

[Transforming Digital Pathology & AI: The Path Forward](#)

[1–2 June 2023](#)

[London GI Pathology Update](#)

[7–8 June 2023](#)

[Clinical and Laboratory Haemostasis 2023](#)

[8–9 June 2023](#)

[19th Annual Meeting](#)

[12 June 2023](#)

[What's Occurring? In Infection Prevention in Wales?](#)

13–14 June 2023

[UKMedLab23](#)

14 June 2023

[BSAC The Challenge of Urinary Tract Infections](#)

15–16 June 2023

[Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes Course 2023](#)

16 June 2023

[Topics in Infection](#)

22 June 2023

[IPS Scotland Branch Conference: Infection Control Matters](#)

23 June 2023

[The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

26–29 June

[How to design and deliver pathogen genomics training for health and research professionals](#)

27–29 June 2023

[Liverpool Pathology 2023](#)

28–29 June 2023

[Haematology Highlights for the UK](#)

29 June 2023

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference](#)

29 June 2023

[BSBMTCT Scientific Showcase: Advanced Cellular Therapy](#)

30 June 2023

[North England Haemoglobinopathy Clinical Event](#)

4 July 2023

[Annual SHOT Symposium 2023](#)

20 July 2023

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass - online](#)

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

9–10 September 2023

[4th ILROG Educational Conference: Radiotherapy in Modern Management of Haematological Malignancies](#)

03 November 2023

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2023](#)

RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)