



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

## President's e-newsletter – January 2017



### President's Message of the Month

Welcome to the first e-newsletter of 2017. I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope you managed to get a break over Christmas.

As the new year gets underway, news headlines about the major challenges facing the NHS are all too familiar.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to working on your behalf during my last year as President.

I will continue to represent your views to policy makers and parliamentarians and work to strengthen College stakeholder relations.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas, concerns or news you would like to bring to my attention.

One a personal note if like me, one of your New Year's resolutions is to try and do more exercise, please consider signing up for one of the College's [Global Health Challenges](#), the proceeds of which help support initiatives to build pathology capacity in developing countries. Whether you fancy cycling or trekking, at home or abroad, there is a challenge for you. Please see the International section below for more details.

You may prefer to get more involved in public engagement this year. If so, the College provides

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free training, in collaboration with the Science Museum, and also has many opportunities for volunteers to get involved, particularly with events for school students. Please see the Public Engagement section below.

Whatever your ambitions for 2017, I hope this year is a successful and fulfilling one for you.

**Dr Suzy Lishman**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
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## **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **An opportunity to make a difference to pathology at a national level**

The first [Getting it Right First Time \(GIRFT\) report](#), published by Professor Tim Briggs, suggested that changes could be made to improve pathways of care, patient experience, and outcomes - with significant cost savings. Originally focussing on orthopaedics, this approach now forms a key part of the roll-out of the recommendations in [Lord Carter's report](#) (February 2016) on operational performance and productivity in acute hospitals.

As a result, pathology has been added to the programme, and GIRFT is now looking for a skilled and effective clinical leader, who is recognised as an expert by their clinical colleagues and has the endorsement of the College.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of Clinical Lead for Pathology, please visit: [GIRFT](#). The closing date for applications is 5 February 2017.

### **TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours (version 8) – TNM8**

TNM8 has recently been published by both the [American Joint Committee on Cancer](#) (AJCC) and the [Union for International Cancer Control](#) (UICC).

The RCPATH sub-specialty leads are currently discussing the implementation of TNM8 and proposed timescales with other professional organisations and the authors of cancer datasets.

Decisions regarding implementation of TNM8 will be made on a tumour site by site basis. AJCC have recommended delaying implementation of TNM8 until 1 January 2018 and it is likely that for at least some tumour sites the advice will be to follow suit. For other tumour sites an earlier implementation date may be given.

We will update you further with proposed implementation dates. It is important for robust national data analysis that there is a synchronous implementation of any new staging system. It is therefore important that for national data collection, data continues to be submitted according to the nationally agreed staging systems (see page 292 of the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset user guide) until further advice is given.

If there is a local requirement to use TNM8 prior to the proposed implementation date, please also state the existing nationally agreed staging system in the pathology report (i.e. state both versions of TNM in the report) and ensure that the current nationally agreed staging system is the one submitted to Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD).

It is important to state the version of TNM used in any pathology report and also the TNM system (AJCC/UICC) - particular during this period of transition.

#### **Trainees Advisory Committee (TAC) trainee survey**

If you are a UK postgraduate pathology trainee in a medical specialty registered with either the RCPATH or Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB), the TAC would like to ask for your help by completing a survey that will allow them to represent the views of pathology trainees. The recent debate and College survey around the junior doctors' contract highlighted how much pathology trainees vary in their working patterns and training. However, there are also other important areas of concerns raised by trainees that the TAC would like to learn more about. The survey can be accessed [here](#). Deadline 5pm on Monday 16 January 2017.

#### **Free online Genomic Medicine course – CPD points?**

The University of Exeter has asked the College for CPD approval of its free online course on the genomics of diabetes, available at: [Genomic Medicine: Transforming Patient Care in Diabetes](#)

The College is considering how best to quality assure such external online teaching resources. At present, participants who undertake this course can gain CPD points by writing a reflective note. If you are planning to take the course, please could you also include reflections on the quality of the course and copy your note to [Peter.Furness@rcpath.org](mailto:Peter.Furness@rcpath.org) to help us ascertain its suitability for CPD points.

## **National Undergraduate Histopathology and Molecular Pathology Introduction**

**10-11 April, St James's University Hospital, Leeds.**

**Funded by the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland in partnership with the Royal College of Pathologists**

This course gives medical undergraduates the opportunity to network and meet junior and senior clinical academics in pathology. It is a great way to get students interested in a career in pathology. Please circulate to all medical students in your hospital/university and encourage them to attend -

[Histopathology and Molecular Pathology Introduction](#)

## **Consultation on the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) - draft dataset for Carcinomas of the Cervix**

Comments are invited on the draft dataset for [Carcinomas of the Cervix](#), developed by the ICCR. The document will be available for comments until Friday 13 January 2017. Feedback is via an electronic form posted on the website.

## **Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary**

The College administers the Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary, set up in memory of Dr Neera Patel FRCPath who was a cellular pathologist specialising in breast pathology. Neena sadly died in 2015 and her family would like to support trainees in her memory.

The bursary is aimed at a histopathology trainee enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme who hopes to develop an interest in breast or head & neck pathology, to enable their participation in a national or international meeting.

The recipient should demonstrate how they will benefit from attending the conference by providing a brief outline of the conference and how it will help their career development. Details are available at [Cellular Pathology Bursaries](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 17 March 2017.

## **GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE**

### **Vacancy for Honorary Librarian**

As the College is about to start construction of its new headquarters at [Alie Street](#), which will include a new library, a successor to Dr Mike Addison is required. A job description and details of how to apply are available at [Honorary Librarian](#). The closing date for applications is Friday 24 February 2017.

### **Clinical Lead for Academic Activities and Chair of the Academic Activities Working Group**

Applications are invited for the new role of [Clinical Lead for Academic Activities and Chair of the Academic Activities Working Group](#). Applicants must be Fellows of the College and should submit their CV with a brief summary of their relevant experience and interest in the post by 31 January. Applications and requests for further information should be submitted to [Nigel Pollard](#), Head of Corporate Services.

**[Trainee Representative for the Interspecialty Committee on Molecular Pathology and Trainees Advisory Committee.](#)**

**[Trainee Representative for the Specialty Advisory Committee \(SAC\) on Medical Microbiology and Trainees Advisory Committee.](#)**

These two committees would like to hear from trainees interested in playing an active role on the respective committee and the Trainees' Advisory Committee.

**Application process for both posts**

Applications in the form of a short statement detailing your suitability for the role should be submitted to Michelle Dominique, Committee Services and Support Officer - [michelle.dominique@rcpath.org](mailto:michelle.dominique@rcpath.org) Closing date for applications is 31 January 2017.

Wales Regional Council (WRC) membership applications invited (5 vacancies)  
Applications are invited from Fellows for posts of Wales Regional Council member taking up office from January 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter, until the Annual General Meeting, November 2019.

**Application process**

Applicants should submit a completed nomination form to Jessica Zago ([Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org](mailto:Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org)), Regional Coordination Assistant, by Friday 13 January 2017, together with an abridged CV and a personal statement of up to 200 words indicating your strengths and interests, including any relevant experience. A job description for this role, along with Terms of Reference and a nomination form is available on the [College website](#) (login required):

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**British Science Week**

**10-19 March**

[British Science Week](#) is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It provides a platform to stimulate and support teachers, STEM professionals, science communicators and the general public to produce and participate in STEM events and activities. If you are interested in running an event in British Science Week, please consider using some of our educational and public engagement resources available on the [website](#). We are also happy to provide [promotional materials](#) for anyone running an event.

**Volunteers needed**

**16 March, Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, London**

Our ever popular *Your Body, Your Consent* event will be held at the Hunterian Museum in March. Invited school students have the opportunity to learn more about biomedical science and its ethical implications, as well as the opportunity to share their views on controversial topics with practising medical professionals. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the workshop, which will consist of helping to facilitate small group discussions with the students. If you are interested, please contact [Amaka Nwagbara](#).

**Free Science Communication Training****Thursday 23 March, Royal College of Psychiatrists, London**

Booking has opened for the next session of the College's popular Science Communication Training. Run by Karen Davies from the Science Museum, the day is an excellent opportunity to learn how to work with different audiences and create events to meet specific aims and objectives. For more information visit [Science Communication Training](#). E:[amaka.nwagbara@rcpath.org](mailto:amaka.nwagbara@rcpath.org)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS****Medical Laboratory Accreditation ISO 15189:****Becoming a College Assessor for the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Region****Tuesday 7 February 2017 - Dubai, UAE**

The College has partnered with the [UK Accreditation Service \(UKAS\)](#) to promote the ISO 15189 standard for international medical laboratory accreditation in the MENA region. This collaboration includes an aim to establish a network of RCPATH Fellows who will be trained to become accredited assessors in the region to develop local regional capacity, knowledge and understanding of the ISO 15189 standard and the practical application and assessment methodology used for accrediting medical laboratories.

This introductory seminar has been organised jointly by the College and UKAS to coincide with the [2017 MedLab Conference](#), - please see below.

A full programme will be confirmed shortly and published on the College website. Register/book online: [MENA Assessor](#)

**MedLab 2017 Laboratory Accreditation Workshop (Hosted by National Reference Laboratory)****Wednesday 8 February - World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE**

The International team will be contributing to the Laboratory Accreditation Workshop at this year's MedLab conference.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Dr Maadh Aldouri (Director of International Affairs, RCPATH)
- Paul Stennett (Chief Executive, UKAS)

**Global Health Challenges 2017**

Make a difference in 2017 by taking up a challenge and fundraise for the College!

This is an exciting time to get involved in the international work of the College. Over the past year the College's international activities have focused on building the capacity of pathology services in developing countries, establishing a cadre of College Fellows and members capable of being deployed overseas as volunteers and advocating for high quality laboratory medicine training and services around the world.

Your support is needed so we can continue to improve pathology and laboratory medicine services in under-resourced countries. Please consider joining #TeamRCPath and undertake a global challenge.

#### **Cycle for the College: London to Paris Bike Ride - 19 - 23 July**

In response to the positive feedback we received from this year's participants, the College will be holding the London to Paris Bike ride event next year in collaboration with Global Adventure Challenges.

This five-day challenge covers four days in the saddle and participants will cycle approximately 295 miles from capital to capital. Following the challenge, fundraisers will enjoy an overnight stay in Paris and have an opportunity to watch the finale of the Tour de France.

#### **Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100 - Sunday 30 July**

The College has been successful in gaining charity places for the 2017 Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100. It is the world's greatest festival of cycling, which will see more than 26,000 amateur cyclists take on a cycling challenge through London and Surrey on a similar route to the London 2012 Olympic Road Cycling Races.

#### **Trek for the College: Iceland - 30 August – 3 September**

Organised in collaboration with Action Challenge, this five-day camping challenge covers 3 days trekking past volcanoes, mountains, snow and lava fields. At the end of the trip fundraisers will have the chance to explore Reykjavik, famous for its mineral-rich Blue Lagoon and celebrate your journey with a dinner and party.

#### **Land's End to John O'Groats - 29 August – 10 September**

Pedal 1,000 miles, end to end, on this classic challenge from Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG), the furthest possible distance in the British Isles. This is a classic challenge that is on many a cyclist's 'to do' list. Covering more than 12 counties, this is one of the toughest fundraising cycle events available. LEJOG will test you to your limits, but it is also a fantastic way to see the UK.

Further information on these challenges can be found on the [College website](#). If you have any questions, or need more information, please email Gemma Hooley, International Administrator (email: [gemma.hooley@rcpath.org](mailto:gemma.hooley@rcpath.org)) or call +44 (0) 20 7451 6768.

#### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

- [Dataset for histological reporting of uterine sarcomas \(3rd edition\)](#)
- [Dataset for histopathology reporting of soft tissue sarcomas \(4e\)](#)
- [Standards for integrated reporting in cellular pathology](#)

#### **NEW CONSULTATION**

- [Tissue pathways for lymph node, spleen and bone marrow trephine biopsy specimens - open for consultation until 20 January](#)

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### **Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease**

**Friday 17 March 2017**

**5 CPD credits**

**To be held at The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB**

This course will provide a practical diagnostic approach to reporting medical liver biopsies, focusing on the importance of clinico-pathological correlation in assessing common patterns of liver damage. Recommended for senior trainees in pathology and hepatology and consultant histopathologists and gastroenterologists who are regularly involved in liver biopsy assessment (without necessarily working in a Liver Unit).

### **Cancer datasets – guiding care for the individual and the wider population**

**Thursday 30 March 17**

**5 CPD Credits**

**To be held at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH**

This programme aims to update pathologists with the latest changes in pathological cancer data collection.

### **“Doctor I’ve been Bitten!”**

**Thursday 6 April 2017**

**To be held at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH**

**5 CPD Credits**

**Joint event with Public Health England**

A training session for trainees and consultants, specifically within infectious diseases and microbiology, to raise awareness and understanding of a range of zoonotic diseases seen in travellers and UK residents. The common theme for the day is the association with an animal bite. Some of the more controversial aspects of Lyme disease will be discussed, as well as diseases that are commonly missed in the travelling population. The day will finish covering the mysteries of animal bites and their management when the bite itself is the issue from envenomation or consequential infection.

### **Kaizen! Rapid Quality Improvement Interventions in Pathology – New!**

**Friday 7 April**

**To be held at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH**

**5 CPD Credits**

Delegates will learn about methodology for rapid quality improvement (QI), understand how to apply a rapid model for QI, how to apply QI tools and techniques to monitor and continuously improve an aspect of service delivery or patient care. The day will also help participants to develop their own QI improvement project and work out the outcomes and processes involved. This event will be of interest to all trainees, pathologists and clinical scientists working in pathology.



**Gynaecological Pathology reporting: What really matters - When and Why - New!**

**Monday 16 October**

**To be held at: The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB**

6 CPD Credits

It is important for histopathologists to understand the clinical significance of their reports and how a data item that is critical in one clinical scenario may be entirely irrelevant in another setting. This novel study day aimed at senior trainees and consultant histopathologists will explain how gynaecological pathology data is used to guide patient management as well as discussing the significance of each data item in different clinical scenarios and specimen types. The course will enable attendees to adopt a more efficient personalised approach to histopathology reporting by focussing on accurately reporting data items that are clinically relevant in a particular case.

**NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) Awards 2017**

The CSO awards are designed to capture and celebrate the diversity of contributions healthcare science makes to the NHS and patient care, whether through leadership, clinical research, technological innovation or communicating science to the public.

The awards are open to all healthcare scientists in England, irrespective of role or grade. Deadline - 5pm Monday 30 January 2017. Information on categories and how to enter - [CSO Awards](#)

**Provision of advice to the UK Health Departments - Research Ethics Service (RES)**

The RES is a core function of the Health Research Authority and enables and supports ethical research in the NHS. The service has a duty to provide an efficient and robust ethics review service which maximises UK competitiveness for health research, whilst protecting participants and researchers. The Research Ethics Committees (RECs) protect the rights, safety, dignity and wellbeing of research participants.

The committees occasionally request expert advice from a specialist referee on a particular issue prior to confirming the ethical opinion for the research. The RES is looking to expand the database of individuals who would be willing to be contacted to offer expert advice – usually a few times a year.

If you are interested in being added to the database of specialist referees, please contact Charlotte Allen, RES Project & Support Manager, [charlotte.allen2@nhs.net](mailto:charlotte.allen2@nhs.net), including details of your area and sub-specialties.

The HRA is also seeking to recruit medical and dental staff including those who may have retired. Please [visit HRA Research Ethics Committees](#)

**John Goldman Fellowships for Future Science**

Leuka is a charity that supports life-saving research into the causes and treatment

of leukaemia and other blood cancers. It is inviting applications for the 2017 John Goldman Fellowships. These prestigious awards have been created in honour of Professor John Goldman (1934 – 2013), a renowned haematologist, a pioneer in the treatment of leukaemia and founding Chairman of Leuka. The fellowship awards are aimed at those with a passion for science and a desire to pioneer new ideas within leukaemia and related research.

To be eligible your research must have relevance to leukaemia, blood cancers and/or related haematological diseases. Details about the programme and application forms at: [www.leuka.org.uk/grants](http://www.leuka.org.uk/grants)

**Closing date for receipt of applications: 31st January**

The 2017 BMA foundation for medical research grants are now open at [BMA Grants](http://www.bma.org.uk/grants)

**OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**For a list of external conferences see:**

<https://www.rcpath.org/profession/conferences/event.html>

- [The St Mary's one-day course in histopathology of the bone marrow](#) – 3 April
- [Advanced Haematological Morphology](#) – 4-5 April
- [Laboratory aspects of haemoglobinopathy diagnosis](#) – 6 April
- [Morphology Update](#) – 7 April
- [Hot Topics/Current Issues Management Day](#) – 9 Feb
- [UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day](#) – 8 March
- [St Mark's gastrointestinal histopathology workshop](#) – 24 Feb
- [Engineering aspects of infection control](#) – 15-19 May
- [Post Mortem Radiology for Natural and Forensic Death Investigation Programme. Module 2. Practical aspects of post mortem radiology](#) – 30 Jan – 3 Feb
- [Post Mortem Radiology for Natural and Forensic Death Investigation. Introduction to post mortem radiology](#) – 25-29 Sep
- [12th Annual Fungal Update Meeting](#) – 03-04 February





