



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – June 2025



President's Message

2025 Spending Review

The Chancellor delivered the 2025 spending review on the 11 of June, which details government spending for the next 4 years – [read the detail here](#).

This has earmarked a significant uplift in spending for the NHS – a £29 billion real terms increase (£53 billion cash increase) in annual NHS day to day spending from 2023-24 to 2028-29. This will take spending to £226 billion by 2028-29, equivalent to a 3.0% average annual real terms growth rate over the review period - equivalent funds will be made available to the devolved governments, but it will be up to them how they spend it.

While this is good news, it is uncertain what this means for pathology. £6 billion has been earmarked for an additional 4 million NHS tests and procedures over the next 5 years – mainly through an expansion of the community diagnostic centres (CDCs). This of course is unlikely to translate directly to pathology services but will be focused on more scanning, radiology and other procedures. Nevertheless, the activity will generate more demand for pathology services.

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Will this increase sort out all the problems of the NHS – no. Will it fix the workforce shortages – no. Will it significantly reduce waiting lists in the next few years – no. However, it's about as much as the country can afford and as much as we can expect at the moment. The College will continue to lobby for more investment in technology and the workforce to ensure the crucial role of pathology is recognised and appropriately funded.

The NHS 10-Year Health Plan (England)

Early July is the latest expected publication date. The likelihood is that this will be a high-level plan with very limited detail on implementation, delivery and explicit mention of pathology. Focusing on the three shifts, the College will be primed to demonstrate the crucial value of pathology services in making this and other plans work. Developing our own pathology plan to sit alongside will be part of that advocacy.

The Association for Laboratory Medicine (LabMed)

I was delighted to attend the two-day conference hosted by LabMed in Manchester this week (LabMedUK25) and introduce the Freddie Flynn Lecture. Congratulations to new LabMed President, Dr Ian Godber, and a huge thanks to outgoing president Kath Hayden. Fantastic news also that LabMed have managed to secure London Excel as the venue for the next European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Conference in 2027, which they will co-host with EFLM.

While in Manchester, I was also able to pop in to the Immunology STP Clinical Science Mentoring Day, that was taking place across town. It was inspiring to meet this large group of immunology clinical scientist trainees, along with their trainers and consultant clinical scientist mentors.

College statement on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

The College recognises that members hold a range of views on assisted dying, and we have no position on the ethical issues related to assisted dying.

The College does, however, have an opinion on the [Bill](#) as currently proposed, and has released a [statement](#) setting this out. In particular, the College cannot support clause 35 as drafted in the current version of the Bill. This states that death following assisted dying will not require notification to the coroner, purely because death was assisted. By default, this means that all assisted dying deaths would be scrutinised by a medical examiner, as all non-coronial deaths in England and Wales must be. The opinion of the College is that deaths following assisted dying should be notified to the coroner, just as other deaths following the administration of drugs, prescribed or not, must be.

Men's Health Strategy for England: call for evidence

We will be submitting research and data from the College to this [call for evidence](#) which will inform the development of a Men's Health Strategy for England. We would encourage you to consider responding individually too, and having your say on this important area. Rather than a formal consultation on specific proposals, this call for evidence is a request for ideas and evidence that the government can build upon and discuss further with key stakeholder groups.

Share your views on cancer multidisciplinary team meetings and how they can be improved

We are encouraging members to respond to a survey led by a consortium of doctors and researchers to explore how cancer multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings are currently working, if they are working well for patients and staff, and how we can organise MDT working to achieve the best results for patients. Please complete [the survey](#) to help build a clearer understanding of how cancer MDTs are working in the face of increasing pressures.

Parliamentary engagement

I was delighted that [Kirsty Blackman MP visited our pathology labs](#) at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, NHS Grampian, for a tour and meeting with Dr Noha El Sakka and me in May. It was great opportunity to show our local MP the

amazing work that pathologists do and the need for greater investment in the service. The visit also included a discussion on RCPATH priorities and strategies to support laboratory services across the country, in particular workforce, IT and data management.

Stakeholder engagement

College Fellow Stephanie Barton spoke at the [Westminster Health Forum](#) conference *Priorities for rare disease diagnosis, care and treatment in England*. This event brought together stakeholders and policymakers to assess practical steps following the publication of the Department of Health's *England Rare Diseases Action Plan 2025*. Areas for discussion included ways to encourage rare disease research and medicine development, and improve speed of diagnosis and equity in access to treatment.

Health Service Journal

I was quoted in in the [Health Service Journal](#) about the availability of the rapid heart failure test - NT-proBNP at Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs).

Data analysed by the HSJ found that the test is not available at most of the NHS's 169 CDCs. The College, along with the British Society for Echocardiography, has called for it to be made available in all CDCs, cutting unnecessary waits for patients, reducing inappropriate referrals and easing pressure on diagnostic services.

Progress has been made in recent years, but we need to ensure this test is made more widely available – backed up with additional capacity in pathology.

Call for nominations –Trustee and Council member roles

The College could not function without members taking on vitally important roles.

Nominations will soon open for a number of College positions, to take effect from the AGM in November.

There are two Trustee and three Council Member vacancies:

- Chair, Wales Regional Council
- Chair, Northern Ireland Council
- Council member (England South)
- Council member (London)
- Council member (England Midlands/East)

Nominations opened Friday 6 June and close on 1 August 2025

Please consider applying and look out for an email with details of how to submit a nomination from CIVICA, who are managing the election on behalf of the College. If you have any queries, please contact elections@rcpath.org

Dr Bernie Croal
President, The Royal College of Pathologists
X: [@RCPath](https://twitter.com/RCPath)

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A PDF version of this newsletter is available at
[RCPath newsletters](#)

Working for members

College response to the NHSE Medical Training Review

In May, the College [submitted evidence](#) to the NHS England Medical Training Review, outlining the challenges and opportunities needed to ensure post-graduate medical training remains fit and sustainable for the future.

Our response advocates for robust workforce planning to align the number and distribution of training posts, as well as recruitment strategies, particularly in smaller specialties, to help avoid a crisis. The need for improved availability of consultant posts on completion of training, more protected time for trainers, and improved infrastructure - particularly IT - to enable trainees to access a high-quality learning environment were also highlighted.

The outcome of the Medical Training Review is due to be published later this year and will take into account the government's 10-Year Health Plan and NHS Long Term Workforce Plan in England.

You can read the College response [here](#).

[New Patient Safety Steering Group holds first meeting](#)

We're delighted to share that the new RCPATH Patient Safety Steering Group (PSSG) held its first in-person meeting on 28 May 2025 at 6 Alie Street.

The PSSG has been launched to support the delivery of the College's [Patient Safety and Quality Strategy 2024–2029](#) and will oversee projects aimed at improving safety, quality and professional leadership in pathology.

Chaired by Dr Mike Eden and made up of pathology professionals, national leaders and lay representatives, the group reflects a wide range of voices and expertise. We're also looking forward to welcoming colleagues from NHS Scotland, NHS Wales and Health and Social Care Northern Ireland.

Initial discussions at the first meeting included reviewing the group's Terms of Reference, setting out priorities for 2025 and beginning work on national standards for point-of-care testing. [Read more about the PSSG and view the full strategy.](#)

[Watch the latest appendix guideline webinar recording](#)

Missed our recent webinar on histopathological reporting of appendiceal carcinomas and mucinous neoplasms? The recording is now available [on our website](#)—watch it anytime at your convenience.

[Royal College of Pathologists Science Communication Prize](#)

The RCPATH Science Communication Prize is now open to undergraduates, foundation doctors and pathology trainees, to recognise excellence in science communication throughout the year.

There are 2 categories: Trainee, for pathology trainees; and Undergraduate, for UK undergraduates and foundation doctors. The winner of each category will be awarded £500 and will be invited to accept their award at the College's New Fellows Ceremony, where it will be presented by representatives of Sonic Healthcare UK who sponsor the prize. The closing date for the 2025 competition is 23:59 on Monday 28 July. Please pass on details of the competition to any students, foundation doctors or trainees that you know of who are involved in public engagement activities.

[Pathology Careers Webinar - Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology](#)

6pm, Thursday 19 June 2025

This online event will shine a spotlight on careers in paediatric and perinatal pathology. Our speakers include consultants Professor Marta Cohen, Dr Clair Evans, Dr Edmund Cheesman, Dr Rachel Rummery; and Dr Francesca McDowell, a histopathology trainee who has sub-specialised in paediatric and perinatal pathology. The session aims to give medical students and foundation doctors a comprehensive introduction to this fascinating pathology specialty. This event is being run jointly by The Royal College of Pathologists, the University of Manchester Pathology Society and the Pathology Subcommittee of UCL Medical Society. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

[Advancing cancer care: The role of liquid biopsy in tumour profiling](#)

12:30pm, Tuesday 24 June 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Join us for an insightful session exploring how liquid biopsy is transforming cancer diagnostics and treatment. The webinar will begin with an overview of liquid biopsy testing and its growing application in cancer care. This will be followed by a presentation highlighting the groundbreaking QuicDNA study—a real-world evaluation of non-invasive liquid biopsy for lung cancer diagnosis and treatment in Wales. Learn how this pioneering approach is accelerating access to precision medicine and reshaping cancer pathways. The webinar is being delivered in partnership with our corporate member, Illumina, and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal currently has more than 330,000 launches and 6,500 resources spanning case studies, lectures, recap videos and podcasts, with many more contributors getting involved to have the Portal engaged with their teaching sessions as a tool. If you are delivering teaching or training and would like to know more about how the Portal can support this, we would love to hear from you!

We are also still looking for support in areas like infection and haematology to support building and reviewing resources, if you would like to talk about getting involved, please get in touch with the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org. For more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#)!

Get involved in the College

[Become an author for cellular pathology Best Practice Recommendations](#)

Support your colleagues and improve patient care by contributing to College Best Practice Recommendations (BPRs). As an author, you'll develop accessible advice to guide pathologists and work closely with the Cellular Pathology SAC to enhance healthcare standards in pathology.

We are looking for new authors to review the following BPRs:

- G132 Provision of intraoperative diagnostic opinions and diagnostic testing on fresh tissue for patients with known infectious diseases
- G137 Guidance on inter-departmental dispatch of cellular pathology material for referral and clinical trials

[To find out more, visit our webpage and apply by Monday 23 June.](#)

[Vacancy: Chair – Clinical Biochemistry Specialty Advisory Committee \(SAC\)](#)

The College is inviting applications for the role of Chair of the Clinical Biochemistry SAC, with a 3-year term of office, until November 2027.

As Chair, you'll play a key role in shaping the future of pathology by:

- Providing professional leadership in Clinical Biochemistry.
- Advising on standards for training, curricula, and assessment.
- Contributing to national conversations that influence service delivery and patient care.
- Helping to build the profile of your specialty and support the College's strategic goals.

This is an excellent opportunity to make a difference, represent your discipline at the highest level, and help shape the College's activities and policy.

To find out more about the work of the SAC and how to apply for the role, visit [Get involved in the College](#) on the College website. Deadline for applications: Monday, 30 June 2025

International

RCPATH International team Global antimicrobial resistance webinar series shortlisted for an award

A webinar series the International Team worked on last summer was shortlisted for an award at the Antibiotic Guardian 2024–25 Shared Learning Event and Awards under the Multi-Country Collaboration category. To find out more, please visit the [news story here](#).

International Regional Advisor Recruitment

We are currently recruiting for International Regional Advisors for the Americas and South East Asia regions. The International Regional Advisor will support the work of the Clinical Director of International Activities by implementing priorities at a regional level, coordinating with Country Advisors, identifying opportunities for College engagement, potential project collaborations and facilitate member communication. The closing date for applications is 16 July 2025. To find out about the role [click here](#)."

Global Health Lecture Series – Replay and Learn

The *Global Health Lecture Series* is a collection of educational video resources developed through the Global Health Workforce Project, a year-long initiative that concluded this January. This project focused on strengthening chemical pathology training and service provision in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria.

You can access free learning material, including case report sessions, expert-led webinars, and other valuable content designed to support continuing professional development from [our website](#)

Celebrate International Pathology Day with us

Wednesday 5 November 2025, from 09.45 (GMT) – end time to be confirmed

Join us at our virtual conference as we celebrate the vital contributions of pathology professionals around the world. This year's theme, 'The global pathology workforce', highlights the dedication and expertise of pathologists and laboratory scientists who are at the heart of healthcare systems across the world.

We are delighted to welcome Jim Campbell, Director of Health Workforce at the World Health Organization (WHO), who will open the event.

This special event is sponsored and hosted in partnership with the [British Society for Haematology \(BSH\)](#) and [Diagnexia](#).

The event will focus on the following areas:

- tackling the global pathology workforce shortage
- digital pathology as a scalable solution
- aligning qualifications and training across borders
- advancing patient care and global health equity

Find out more about the event and secure your space at [our event page](#). Join us to celebrate the global pathology workforce together!

New publications

New guideline in consultation

- [Tissue pathways for native medical renal biopsies](#).

[Dr Chris Tiplady blog – Is it ever ok to lie to your patients?](#)

In his latest blog, Dr Chris Tiplady wonders if it is ever ok to lie to your patients. **New guideline**

Regional news

Save the date for the following regional symposia

RCPATH Wales Symposium 2025

This is free an in-person only event. CPD credits TBC

Date & Time: 26 September 2025, 12.30-5pm

Venue: to be confirmed (Cardiff)

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Wales. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Wales. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and hear about the College's work in Wales.

[RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025](#) (3 CPD credits)

This is a free and in-person only event.

Date: Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Venue: Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

Time: 09:30 – 13:00 (followed by lunch and Trainee Forum)

The Royal College of Pathologists invites you to join us for the **RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025** — a gathering of distinguished voices in pathology and medicine, featuring insights on molecular discoveries, screening advancements, immunology, and more.

Highlights include:

- Welcome remarks from **Dr Gareth McKeeman** and **Professor Sir Michael McBride**
- An update from the President, **Dr Bernie Croal**, on College's work in Northern Ireland
- Talks by leading experts including **Professor Mary Frances McMullin**, **Dr Claire Hennell**, and much more
- A special **Trainee Forum** with the RCPATH President from 14:30 to 16:00
- Complimentary lunch served at 13:00 in the Lobby area

We encourage all healthcare professionals, trainees, and students with an interest in pathology to attend.

We look forward to welcoming you.

College Courses

[RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation and Undergraduate Taster Event 2025 – Virtual](#)

7pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The joint RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation and Undergraduate Taster Event 2025, is an exciting opportunity for you to explore pathology and see what the career has to offer. This virtual programme will be delivered with a mixture of specialty-specific sound bite videos from a variety of consultants and trainees (sent to attendees a few days before the meeting), followed

by a live virtual session, which will take place in the evening and last approximately 1.5 hours (via zoom). It is free to register.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore:

- what pathology actually is and why it is important
- what the training involves
- the variety of opportunities that are available for trainees to pursue e.g. teaching, molecular and digital pathology
- advice about the application process and how to be successful at the interview
- how to pursue academic and research opportunities in pathology.

[The future of AI in pathology – a guided tour](#)

1pm, Thursday 10 July 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The government are keen to see adoption of AI in the public sector accelerate at pace. There are many examples of excellent AI tools that can save lives, cut costs and improve diagnostic speed and accuracy but adoption in the NHS has been slow with justifiable concerns on integration, patient safety and cultural change. This Webinar will provide a guided tour of AI applications relevant to The Royal College of Pathologist members to help them judge where and when AI tools might support new, faster, better diagnostic pathways. Owen Johnson, director of AI Medical at the University of Leeds will provide a tour of AI research and innovation and this will be followed by a discussion on members' experiences and concerns chaired by Karen Mitchell.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Hepatitic liver disease](#)

12.30pm, Wednesday 3 September 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This session will provide an overview as to acute and chronic hepatitic pathologies along with clues to help differentiate between different aetiological causes including autoimmune hepatitis, viral hepatitis and drugs.

This event will take place via zoom at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series - Two deceased in the same house](#)

Thursday, 18 September 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series - Fractured neck of femur](#)

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Liver, the weird and the wonderful](#)

12.30pm, Wednesday 5 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This session will cover the slightly more unusual elements of medical liver disease which we sometimes come across including genetic/inherited liver diseases and more.

This event will take place via zoom at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series – Diabetes and the heart](#)

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series – Maternal death, Part 1](#)

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Maternal deaths are rare (only 80-100pa across the UK) but their autopsies are not generally done well, due to unfamiliarity. These two lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of Direct & Indirect maternal deaths, and inform on how to perform the autopsies optimally.

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

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 mandatory 26 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](#)

Wednesday, 24 September 2025

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 – Virtual](#)

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

CPD credits: 6

News from other organisations

Progress Test Workshop on Myeloid and Lymphoid Disorders, hosted by the European Hematology Association (EHA) Exam Curriculum Committee -

Date: Monday, 30 June 2025

Venue: Lee Hall, Wolfson College, Cambridge

This unique one-day event brings together haematology educators, examiners, and trainees to collaboratively shape the EHA Progress Test—a formative assessment tool used across Europe to support excellence in haematology training.

What to Expect:

- Interactive, small-group sessions to develop and refine high-quality, curriculum-aligned MCQs
- Focused discussions on diagnostic and therapeutic strategies in AML, MDS, MPN, lymphomas, and CLL
- Practical guidance on integrating genomic and molecular medicine into clinical assessment
- Emphasis on clinical reasoning over factual recall, using the EHA blueprint to calibrate question design

This workshop is especially valuable for haematology trainees approaching CCT or preparing for FRCPATH Part 2.

To book your place visit: [EHA Progress Test Workshop - The European Hematology Association \(EHA\) \(ehaweb.org\)](https://eha.org.uk/progress-test-workshop)

UKHSA AMR & HCAI surveillance output evaluation

UKHSA's antimicrobial resistance (AMR) & Healthcare-associated infection (HCAI) division, together with the Evaluation & Epidemiological Science division are working on an assessment to improve UKHSA-provided surveillance outputs related to the AMR national action plan 2024-2029. These include surveillance statistics and monitoring data on various bacterial and fungal infections, antimicrobial use, pathogen resistance rates and antimicrobial stewardship.

Please fill out this survey, even if you do not currently use any AMR or HCAI surveillance data.

Please also share the survey with colleagues in your team, division, organisation, network or beyond who work on AMR, HCAI, IPC, antibiotic prescribing or use, or any related areas, who you think can provide valuable input for this evaluation.

[Link to the survey](#)

Please fill out this survey by 30 June 2025.

For more information or if you have any queries please email to amr_outputs_survey@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Share your views on cancer multidisciplinary team meetings and how they can be improved

MDT meetings – a cornerstone of cancer care - face increasing challenges, including increasing patient numbers, staff shortages, and financial pressures, which have led to longer meetings and higher costs.

A project on how MDT meetings are being led by a consortium of doctors and researchers from the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

What will this project do?

Through a one-off online survey, the project team will aim to understand how cancer MDT meetings are currently working, the challenges faced and the strategies used to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the MDT approach.

Findings of this survey will inform the work of the RCR on improvements to MDT working. It will also provide unique and important snapshot data on the key challenges facing cancer MDTs at present.

Take part by completing the online survey, hosted on Thiscovery, which will take about 15 minutes. [Read more and take part in the survey.](#)

Other external events of interest

17 June 2025

[Wales External Quality Assessment Services \(Weqas\) Conference 2025](#)

18 June 2025

[NHS-Cepheid Event: Rapid Diagnostics for Respiratory & Antimicrobial Resistant Infectious Diseases: High Quality Results in a Well Governed Service](#)

20 June 2025

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) – Hot Topic Webinar Series - Webinar 3](#)

20-21 June 2025

[Invitro Diagnostics \(IVD\) in the field of Clinical Genomic Testing – Global overview The webinar is Jointly organised by the ACGS QSC, RCPATH Genomics](#)

24 June 2025

[What's New in Haematological Malignancies - Post Congress - Manchester](#)

24 June 2005

[Public Lecture at Ghent Pathology](#)

24-26 June 2025

[Ghent Pathology](#)

25 June 2025

[British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy \(BSBMTCT\) Scientific Showcase: Advanced Cellular Therapy](#)

26 June 2025

[Yorkshire Myeloid Update Day](#)

27 June 2025

[The Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service \(HMDS\) Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

27 June 2025

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy \(OPAT\) Regional Workshop - Glasgow](#)

Our full programme of CPD events can be found on the members' [website](#).

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