

Newsletter from Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – September 2021

President's Message of the Month

RCPATH Achievement Awards 2021 – your chance to recognise and celebrate your colleagues

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented pressure for the NHS and our staff. From ensuring as little disruption as possible to patient care and treatment, to tackling the backlog of cases, our colleagues have risen to the challenge.

To help recognise and celebrate your hard work and dedication, I am delighted to announce the launch of the [RCPATH Achievement Awards 2021](#).

The awards were launched in 2019 to celebrate excellence in pathology and promote high standards in pathology education, training and research to deliver the best patient care.

We had some [fantastic winners in 2020](#) across a range of pathology specialties and I am very much looking forward to seeing your nominations for this year.

You can find out more, including how to nominate, at [RCPATH Achievement Awards 2021](#). The closing date for nominations is **Tuesday 5 October**.

College survey on genomic and molecular testing, and its effect on your workload

I would urge all members to participate in [this very important survey](#) set up by the Working Group for Cancer Services and the Cellular Pathology Genomics Focus Group. This will allow us to understand the impact of genomic, molecular and immunohistochemical testing of cancers on the workload of you, our members.

We also need to understand how testing is implemented, can be improved and the effect on your workload, and overall service delivery and patient care. The results of the survey will inform our future discussions about the resourcing and structure of pathology laboratories as genomic and molecular testing is rolled out. The information you provide will equip us with evidence to champion your needs with parliamentarians, particularly in raising concerns around capacity and investment in the autumn Comprehensive Spending Review. This is a rapidly developing area and one in which we are heavily engaged in supporting increased funding and workforce for pathology to cope with the extra work. We can only succeed if we have the relevant information so [please do fill out this survey](#) by **5pm on Monday 6 September 2021**.

Patient Safety Awareness Week 17 – 23 September

I am delighted to announce that Patient Safety Awareness Week will be launching later this month to coincide with World Patient Safety Day.

Organised and hosted by the College, the aim of the week is to raise awareness about the vital role pathology plays in patient safety and to share learning among pathologists from patient safety incidents.

There are many ways you can find out more, including infographics, articles, patient safety bulletins, exploring our patient safety resources (webinars and podcasts) and entering the essay competition. All the resources are being released throughout the week.

You can also get involved by joining the conversation on social media by using #PatientSafetyAware.

COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy

The College, with the Royal College of Gynaecologists, recommends that pregnant women receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and released a statement outlining our position.

This is in line with Government advice that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy offers the best protection against this disease, which can have serious consequences in pregnancy for some women.

On the agenda

- I want to draw your attention to a letter from College Fellow Dr Naseem Ansari published in the BMJ. The letter perfectly encapsulates the current and on-going workload pressures on the cellular pathology workforce, as well highlighting their continued dedication and diligence to ensuring the best patient care and treatment.
- NHS Digital has received approval for the pathology information standards. I'd like to thank the Pathology team at NHS Digital for their work, which has culminated in the approval of the pathology information standards. This is an important step towards the development of a standardised universal test list for pathology services which will benefit patient care and contribute to the promotion of pathology.
- I'd like to thank Professor Roberto La Ragione and all the staff at the University of Surrey's Veterinary Pathology Centre for their fantastic hospitality during my recent visit to their Vet Path Centre and Vet School. It's a brilliant unit with a great team and I had a very enjoyable and informative visit. I hope to make more laboratory visits as restrictions ease.
- I was very pleased to meet Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. I stressed pathology workforce concerns and how staff shortages affect dealing with the COVID-19 backlog, especially in cancer diagnosis. I also highlighted that pathology underlies most diagnoses and is vital to treatment and prevention.

Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COLLEGE NEWS

College building wins prestigious award from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

The College's office building at 6 Alie Street, Aldgate, has [won a London Regional Award 2021](#) from RIBA. The College building was one of eight winning schemes.

College staff return to office working

College staff will be returning to office working at the College's office building 6 Alie Street, London EC1 8QT from 13 September.

Full time staff will be adopting a hybrid model of working and will be based in the office for at least two days a week and working from home for the remainder of the week.

For a list of staff contacts, [please visit our website](#).

College strategy for a sustainable future – update

In May 2020 the College published its [strategy for a sustainable future](#). Since its publication several initiatives have taken place including:

- a [successful webinar](#) was hosted in conjunction with the IBMS, on Pathology and the Environment
- articles were published in the [Bulletin in April 2020](#)
- the College divested from direct holdings in fossil fuels in February 2020. It also no longer has indirect holdings
- the College has committed (alongside other medical Royal Colleges) to be carbon neutral by 2030
- the move to working from home (and hybrid working), virtual meetings and online examinations has had a huge impact, reducing the carbon footprint of the College, through reducing travel and energy use
- The College has increased its range of meat free catering options for meetings

This is the start of a programme of work for the College and we plan to update members on a regular basis.

College Diamond Jubilee – 2022

The College will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in 2022. Plans are underway for a year-long programme of activities to highlight the role of pathology and the College with

events for members, their families, friends and colleagues, policymakers and the wider public. The College's 60th birthday is on 21 June 2022 and an Open Day will take place in London, to which we have invited our patron, HM the Queen, and which will include a live-streamed lecture by Professor Jonathan Van Tam. There will be events in the devolved nations, regional events and online activities, so watch this space!

Diamond Jubilee event – calling all cyclists!

As part of the celebrations next year, the College is organising both a bespoke physical Lands' End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle ride and virtual cycling challenges!

There is a change to the dates that were previously announced for the physical ride which were originally 10 and 21 September 2022.

The new dates are September 13–24 September.

We need to know numbers for the physical ride in advance. If you are interested, please contact Professor Sarah Coupland, ASAP on s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk

Please note that virtual challenges are also being organised throughout next year, including a virtual LEJOG, West Wales Walk, and others. Stay tuned!

The Bulletin

The College Bulletin's Diamond Jubilee issues will have a different format from our usual issues and we hope to feature all our specialties through an array of articles. If you have a suggestion for an article related to your specialty, please get in touch with us by emailing Publishing@rcpath.org

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2021

The College recognises and appreciates the pressures on our members during this extremely difficult period.

To provide a bit of a breathing space and alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2020/2021 CPD returns deadline to 30 September 2021.

If you need more time to submit or have any queries, please contact the CPD Department: cpd@rcpath.org

New blog: The Empty Chair

The latest blog in Chris Tiplady's professional development series is The Empty Chair, which talks about the importance of conversations with family members and friends who support and care for patients.

SAS Doctors

The College's workforce department have created a new webpage for SAS doctors.

The College has published a strategy to support SAS (specialty and associate specialist) doctors working in pathology. This strategy outlines several objectives that will lead to the implementation and development of services and governance for SAS doctors.

There are also a number of new commitments including:

- improving the attractiveness and relevance of affiliate member benefits and resources available to those in this grade
- supporting our SAS doctors working in pathology who become College members, by encouraging their participation in the College's [CPD scheme](#)
- ensuring that our SAS doctors have a stronger voice through inclusion on [committees](#) and [exam](#) panels.

Two new members of the Working Group on Cancer Services

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services is recruiting two new cellular pathology members who have a broad knowledge base in cellular pathology reporting and who are interested in clinical guideline development, information management and improving the standards of service delivery. For more information and details of how to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#). Completed applications should be returned by Friday 17 September 2021.

GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

Committee Chair Vacancies

The College has several committee chair vacancies in the following specialty areas:

- Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Specialty Advisory Committee
- Trainees' Advisory Committee

Why should I apply?

The Royal College of Pathologists is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology, for the benefit of patients. Those holding office contribute to this important work by providing professional leadership and contributing at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of patient care.

Who should apply?

Make a difference and help to shape College activities and policy by building the profile of your specialty and pathology in general through our committees.

How to apply

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the [College website](#) and submit your application to elections@rcpath.org by Thursday 30 September 2021.

Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles

Trainees – take up an active role on the TAC! We are looking for enthusiastic trainees to join the Trainees' Advisory Committee. The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. Representatives on the TAC are responsible for raising issues on behalf of trainees in their specialty. The committee representatives are also active members of the [College's specialty committees](#), participating in discussions and informing the committee of the views of specialty trainees.

Why should I apply?

Make a difference – work with other trainees in your specialty, network with your peers, get involved with the College's work and support your professional development.

What TAC roles are available?

- Dermatopathology Representative
- Medical Microbiology Representative
- Toxicology Representative
- Veterinary Clinical Representative
- Veterinary Pathology Representative

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday 30 September and further details about the role can be found [here](#).

Become a performance reviewer for invited reviews

We are recruiting for reviewers to undertake RCPATH invited reviews. This is a fantastic opportunity for personal development by representing the College and helping colleagues and their departments, making a significant contribution to improving patient safety. Visit the [Performance reviewers for invited reviews](#) page and submit your application to professionalism@rcpath.org by 30 September 2021

Nominations open for Asst Registrar, Wales Regional Chair and NI Regional Chair

The nomination phase for the election of three of the college's trustees opened on 1 June.

All eligible Fellows have been sent information direct by [Civica](#), who are managing the process on behalf of the College.

These roles offer the opportunity to contribute at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of care that patients receive.

Information on the three roles can be found on the following links:

- [Assistant Registrar](#)
- [Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair](#)
- [Wales Regional Council Chair](#)

Nominations will be accepted up to midday on 6 September 2021.

REGIONAL SYMPOSIA

Scotland Symposium 2021: Challenges and Opportunities During Recovery **Friday 8 October 2021, 1.30–5pm**

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the diverse range of pathology specialties in Scotland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in pathology and will have the opportunity to share some of the great developments happening in Scotland. They will also hear from the President Dr Mike Osborn and find out about the College's work in Scotland.

REGIONAL SURGERIES IN ENGLAND

The College's Regional Representatives on College Council are introducing new and innovative ways to hear and understand views from members across the region they represent.

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet you and hear about 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 to present the region's interests and concerns. These surgeries are also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

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

- **London surgery:** 19 October 2021, 1pm–3pm – *led by Dr Rachael Liebmann (rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (London)*
- **South of England surgery:** date and time to be confirmed – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi (negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (South)*
- **North of England surgery:** 8 November, 12.30–2.00pm – *led by Dr Ali Robb (ali.robbs@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)*
- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** date and time to be confirmed – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali (laszlo.igali@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)*

INTERNATIONAL

International Pathology Day 2021

Wednesday 10 November, 10.00–14.00 (GMT)

Digital pathology and artificial intelligence: a world's-eye view is this year's theme for IPD. This virtual event will be hosted by the College in association with sponsor Sonic Healthcare UK and partner The British Society for Haematology (BHS). The programme will explore how digital pathology has made international collaborations between developed and middle-to-lower income countries easier and what some of the real-world issues are in scaling-up digital and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions in laboratories. The day will also examine how pathologists, scientists and medical professionals will need to learn new ways of working as technology propels us ever further into the digital age. [Discover more about the event and register here.](#)

A new international virtual resources page

Developed through international collaborations and UK partnerships aimed at supporting the continued professional development of pathologists and scientist worldwide, the College's international team has published a new page on the College website. The page will host different virtual resources covering topics across several specialities. First are [a series of six lectures, on the theory of genomic technologies](#), delivered in association with Kings College Hospital, London and colleagues working for organisations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), for and on behalf of one of the College's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) partners, The Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN).

PROMOTING PATHOLOGY

National Pathology Week 2021

This year's [National Pathology Week \(NPW\)](#) runs from 1 to 7 November. The theme 'All Together Now', aims to explore pathology in diverse and creative ways. The College's online events are listed on the [NPW page](#). They're all free and we'd be grateful if members could share the event links with friends, family and students. If you're running an event or activity in your hospital or local community, please tell us about it by [registering it via our website](#) and/or by tagging us (@RCPath on Twitter and @royalcollegeofpathologists on Instagram) and using our #PathologyWeek hashtag on

social media. You can also order some branded materials and information booklets for your NPW events via [our quick online order form](#).

Help spread the word about our Science Communication Prize

If you know a pathology trainee or undergraduate who has shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year, please encourage them to apply for this prize by the closing date of 17 September. The winner will receive £200 and be invited to receive the award at a College event.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Guidelines for non-operative diagnostic procedures and reporting in breast cancer screening](#)
- [Dataset for tumours of the urinary collecting system \(renal pelvis, ureter, urinary bladder and urethra\)](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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.

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 session – Virtual Training

Thursday 2 December 2021

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

Friday 24 September 2021

CPD credits: 6

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

BMA Wellbeing support services

BMA's Wellbeing support services are available free to all doctors and medical students in the UK, regardless of BMA membership.

The services are free and confidential and include:

- 24/7 **counselling** line including a structured course of up to six sessions of therapy available over the telephone, online, and now also face to face until the end of October. This is also open to their spouses, partners and dependents aged 16–24 in full-time education.
- confidential **peer support** provided by other doctors
- a UK wellbeing support **directory** detailing various support services by geographical availability visit [**sources of support page**](#).

The BMA also provide a **Doctor support service**, an emotional support service specifically for any doctor undergoing a GMC investigation or facing licence withdrawal (regardless of BMA membership) – it's free, confidential and provided by fellow doctors.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

The 5th edition WHO Classification of Tumours – update on progress and feedback

The timeline for the 5th editions is in the main, on schedule. However there are some delays in publication of the print versions.

Work has started on the Haematolymphoid tumours volume, which is one of the largest in the series. This haematolymphoid volume uses the same process developed for the 5th edition in 2018 and the IARC has published a series of [**FAQs on this process**](#).

In line with the IARC's [**open science policy**](#) the draft classification for the [**Haematolymphoid volume has been published for the first time**](#). A dedicated email address for comments and suggestion on content has also been set up at: [**haematolymphoidtumours@iarc.fr**](mailto:haematolymphoidtumours@iarc.fr). Please send your submissions by 15 October.

Commission on Human Medicines – Expert Advisory Group

The [**Commission on Human Medicines**](#) is looking to appoint four experts and one Lay member to the Chemistry, Pharmacy and Standards Expert Advisory Group in the following areas:

- the development of medicinal products, their manufacturing methods, and analytical controls, both during manufacture and throughout shelf life
- drug substance design, synthesis, and characterisation
- pharmaceutical microbiology, including antimicrobial preservation, sterilisation, and control of sterilisation processes
- practical use of pharmaceutical products within community and hospital pharmacy settings.

Further details with how to apply are available via the [**GOV.UK website**](#). Please contact [**ECSRecruitment@mhra.gov.uk**](mailto:ECSRecruitment@mhra.gov.uk) if you have any questions about the post.

The closing date for applications is midday 20 September 2021.

Review Tribunal Medical Member x5 – Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission

The NIJAC is inviting Expressions of Interest for the office of fee paid Medical Members of the Review Tribunal. It is intended to make five appointments and to maintain a reserve list for 12 months from the anticipated date of the first appointment.

To be eligible for appointment as a Medical Member of the Review Tribunal, a person must be, by 13 September 2021, a registered medical practitioner with the General Medical Council (GMC). Closing date: 12 noon on Monday 13 September 2021.

For more information and to apply please visit: [Apply online | Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission \(nijac.gov.uk\)](https://nijac.gov.uk). A YouTube video is also available [with helpful information](#).

Research into feelings of shame as result of experiencing the GMC disciplinary process

Researchers at the University of Birmingham and University of Exeter are interested in experiences of doctors who have felt shame or other negative or self-conscious emotions because of experiencing the GMC disciplinary process. The researchers are looking to see how these feelings, emotions, and experiences influence the delivery, experience, and maintenance of medical care.

The research is funded by the Wellcome Trust (217879/Z/19/Z) and has ethical approval from the Health Research Authority.

If you are a doctor based in England, the researchers would like to hear about the incident(s), your feelings and how you processed this. Your participation in the research will involve an interview with a member of the project team that will last about an hour. To register your interest in taking part contact Dr Stephen Williams at s.j.williams@bham.ac.uk.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

4–9 September 2021

Live On-line Diagnostic Dermatopathology course

4–9 September 2021; then 2 hours every Saturday 10am–12pm up to 30+ hours

For more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz: hendmahfouz21@gmail.com

08 September 2021

[The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

09 September 2021

[Benchside to bedside: the implementation of digital pathology into routine practice](#)

10 September 2021

[Post ISTH & ASH Headlines 2021](#)

13–14 September 2021

BAUP Advanced Prostate Pathology Course – For more information, please email: events@baup.org.uk

15 September 2021
Pathology Grand Round Lecture, Sponsored by the Jean Shanks Foundation & The Pathological Society

17–18 September 2021
2021 General Pathology Conference

17 September 2021
St Mark's GI Histopathology workshop

17 September 2021
CAR-T Nursing & Allied Healthcare Professionals: Challenges and Considerations

22 September 2021
BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas: Complex urinary tract infections

23–24 September 2021
3RD NCRI AML Academy - Management of Adult AML: where are we in 2021?

24 September 2021
An introduction to guideline development

27–28 September 2021
BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course

27–29 September 2021
Infection Prevention 2021

01 October 2021
The Wessex & Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Course – For more information, please email: PDU.WX@hee.nhs.uk

04 October–01 November 2021
[Virtual Lymphoma Management Course](#)

[05 October 2021](#)
BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas: Treatment of systemic fungal infections

[08 October 2021](#)
UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day

[14 October 2021](#)
Into clinical practice: Meeting the challenges of Gram-negative infection management

[15 October 2021](#)
UK EBMT Nurses and AHP Group

[09 November 2021](#)
UK MDS Forum Education Day

[13 November 2021-30 July 2022](#)
30 Webinars in the EOE (Season2)

[19 November 2021](#)

Birmingham Breast Update Course 2021

RCPATH CPD-accredited online resources can be found [here](#).

