



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – April 2025



President's Message

I have just returned from 7 days on the bonny banks of Loch Lomond, made all the better by a somewhat unprecedented 7 continuous days of sunshine..... and not a midge in sight! So, a bit of a rest and time to recharge, albeit my toddler grandkids kept me very occupied! Meanwhile healthcare, pathology, and College work carries on – no time for rest there....

Tariffs

The chaos created in the world's financial and trading markets over the last few weeks represent a further variable that may affect healthcare within the UK. Diagnostic supplies, including the raw materials, mostly originate from China, USA and the EU. Too early to say for sure, but supply chains for analysers, equipment, consumables and drugs may be in jeopardy. This is where well thought out contingency planning around business continuity and diagnostic stewardship will be very useful. We all need to remain vigilant.

College Strategy Planning

In a few weeks' time, the College Trustee Board and senior college staff will meet to

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discuss future strategy. This once again will be significantly influenced by events of the last year and predicted future activity across healthcare, politics, and current affairs. Since last year, we have had a new UK Government, with a multitude of new policies and plans for the NHS. In parallel, it is clear that available budgets in many areas remain insufficient to run services, reduce waiting lists and train enough doctors, scientists and other healthcare staff. Despite this, there is still much to play for. Aligning our college strategy to the predicted outcomes of the NHS 10-Year Health Plan, long term workforce plans, elective recovery plan and many other plans across the 4 nations of the UK, will enable pathology to make a stronger argument for existing funding and ensure re-allocation of other funding is considered.

The end of the month brings the **Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Society of Haematology** in Glasgow, my childhood home town. I am very much looking forward to attending this meeting, getting some much-needed CPD, catching up with colleagues and friends and introducing Professor Andreas Greinacher, who will deliver the College's Sir John Dacie Lecture.

The Workforce Census 2025 – thank you

I would like to thank all of you who took part in the Workforce Census which has just closed. Your data will be essential in understanding current and future workforce and workload trends across our 17 pathology specialties.

We are now analysing the data, with key findings to be shared in the coming months.

Parliamentary engagement

I had a productive meeting with Dr Zubir Ahmed MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Department of Health, at the end of March. Our meeting

focussed on the forthcoming 10-Year Health Plan. Dr Ahmed recognised how far sighted the profession is on how we use technology in pathology; it is clear though, that investment in technology will be essential, as will investment in our pathology workforce.

Advocacy on antimicrobial resistance

Working with our Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Specialty Advisory Committee, the College submitted evidence to the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into how well government is implementing plans to respond to the risks posed by antimicrobial resistance. The Committee quoted our evidence, highlighting the importance of a fully funded infection specialist workforce in implementing antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control measures.

Establishing a Duty of Candour in Northern Ireland

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland launched a [public consultation asking for views on the draft 'Being Open' Framework](#) and the establishment of a Duty of Candour in Northern Ireland. The College's Northern Ireland Regional Council submitted its response to this consultation, in favour of a statutory organisational duty of candour but rejecting the introduction of an individual duty of candour with criminal sanctions and will further reinforce a culture of fear and blame, rather than one that promotes openness and learning.

This aligns the College with other medical royal colleges and wider patient and service user safety initiatives.

Pathologists at the cutting edge of AI research

It's fantastic to see College members at the cutting edge of AI research and innovation. Professor Elizabeth Soilleux and her team at the University of Cambridge have developed an AI tool that has the potential to revolutionise coeliac disease diagnosis. There was excellent media coverage, including in the [Guardian](#), where I was able to make the case that there needs to be ongoing investment to ensure that AI delivers full benefits to patients by speeding up diagnosis, improving health outcomes and shortening waiting lists

RCPaTh nominated for award for its work on global antimicrobial resistance

I'm delighted that the [RCPaTh Global Antimicrobial Webinar series](#), which the College international team ran last summer, has been shortlisted in the [UKHSA Antibiotic Guardian Shared Learning Awards](#) in the Multi-Country Collaboration category. The winners will be announced on 9 June, and you can see more about the award on the [Antibiotic Guardian](#) website. Congratulations to all members and staff involved in developing and delivering this important programme of work.

Dr Bernie Croal

President, The Royal College of Pathologists

X: [@RCPaTh](#)

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

Working for members

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 award will be given to a person in the Scientific or Technical category.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted by 5pm Friday 30 May 2025 [via this link](#).

Please use the citation to describe your nominee's background, achievements, and contributions to the field of blood transfusion, in no more than 500 words; furthermore, please demonstrate the impact that they have made to the field.

[Sign up for our upcoming guideline implementation webinars](#)

The Professional Guidelines team will be delivering the webinars listed below to support pathologists with the implementation of new and revised clinical guidelines. The webinars are free to members and 1 CPD point is available per webinar (self-accredited). They will take place on Zoom, are presented by the guideline authors, with ample time for questions. [Register for free](#).

Tuesday 29 April 2025, 1pm GMT - Implementation guidance for histopathological reporting of breast disease in surgical excision specimens of breast cancer

Tuesday 6 May 2025, 1pm GMT - Implementation guidance webinar for histopathological reporting of carcinomas and mucinous neoplasms of the appendix

Apply to be a Portfolio Pathway Assessor

If you are interested in becoming involved with the College, becoming a Portfolio Pathway assessor is a good way to do so. The Portfolio Pathway assessors determine whether or not each Portfolio Pathway applicant meets the knowledge, skills and experience required to practise as a specialist in the UK for their specialty. Assessors will either recommend applicants for entry to the Specialist Register or outline what more needs to be done to meet the standard. Training and ongoing support will be provided, and assessors can self-accredit for CPD points for each Portfolio Pathway evaluation they undertake.

A role description and further information is available on the [College website](#). If you would like to apply, please send an email outlining how you meet the person specification, along with an abbreviated CV, to training@rcpath.org

CPD returns deadline

We offer CPD statements through our CPD returns process to help members assemble supporting information for [revalidation](#).

Although our CPD year ends at the end of March, you have until 30 September to submit your CPD return. Please submit your return [here](#) when you are ready.

Should you have any enquiries or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to the Member Engagement and Support Team at 020 7451 6720 or cpd@rcpath.org.

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal has added more than 500 new resources this month across 17 specialties, including case studies, lectures, recap videos and podcasts, to total 6,500. Currently the Portal is looking for new post graduate doctors in training to get involved, particularly around haematology and infection, so if you are interested in supporting the development of resources in these areas, please get in touch.

If you haven't explored the Pathology Portal yet, visit the [College website](#) to join today. We welcome your suggestions, questions, and content contributions at pathologyportal@rcpath.org

Get involved in the College

[Apply to be the new Clinical Lead for Guideline Adjudication](#)

The College is seeking a Clinical Lead for Guideline Adjudication to help shape the future of pathology guidelines. This remote three-year role offers the chance to work closely with expert teams, ensure guidelines meet national and international standards and contribute to improving patient care. For more details on how to apply, [visit the full job description on our website](#).

New publications

- Read Dr Chris Tiplady's latest blog – [The 15 minute hospital](#) – where Dr Tiplady wonders if a 15-minute hospital would work.
- The College has published a [new brochure](#) that collates information on the vision and mission of the College, the key services we deliver and the wide array of member benefits available.

Regional news

Save the date for the following regional symposia:

RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2025 (3 CPD credits)

This is a free and in-person only event.

Date & Time: 22 October 2025, 9.30am-2pm

Venue: Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

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 have the opportunity to share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and find out about the College's work in Northern Ireland.

RCPATH Wales Symposium 2025

This is an in-person only event.

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.

College Courses

Epipathology: pathology and epidemiology in conservation medicine

1pm, Wednesday 30 April 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Pathology is an ever-growing field within zoo and wildlife medicine as much of the knowledge of many species comes from performing postmortem examinations. However, in times of small case reports for certain species, epidemiology plays a key role in identifying patterns within those findings to compile information that helps us learn more about the species so that we may help the living. This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Biliary diseases

12.30pm, Wednesday 7 May 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This session will give an overview on biliary conditions affecting the liver including primary biliary cholangitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis, how to differentiate between the two, and how additional histochemical and immunohistochemical stains can help support these diagnoses.

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

Medical Examiner Annual Conference – Virtual Event

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

CPD credits: TBC

The 2025 Medical Examiner Annual Conference will be held on Zoom on Wednesday May 14th. Speakers will cover a range of current topics relevant to the medical examiner service. This event may be of interest to MEs, MEOs, Registrars, Coroners and others working in death certification and registration.

Confirmed speakers include:

- William Vineall, Director of NHS Quality, Safety and Investigations
- Jonny Tinsley, Head of Health Data, Office for National Statistics
- Emma Whitting, HM Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire and Luton
- Representative of HASAG, the asbestos support charity
- More coming soon

Topics include:

- An update on the statutory system from the Department of Health and Social Care
- An update from NHS England
- Assisted dying - potential implications for MEs
- Asbestos-related deaths
- When are MEs interested persons?
- How accurate does the cause of death have to be?
- More coming soon

Autopsy webinar series – Sepsis

1pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Sepsis is an inflammatory response, generally triggered by microbes, in which a cascade of molecules has a wide range of effects. The metabolic responses to these compounds have an

important physiological role, but can lead to overwhelming clinical changes and death, especially in the already vulnerable or frail individual. The underlying source of sepsis may be obvious, but in up to 40% of cases, it is not. In such cases, detailed understanding of the clinical history is very important. There are recognised microscopic changes, but these vary in degree, and can be very difficult to identify in the decomposing body, even in the early stages. This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

Establishing mode of action and human relevance of animal carcinogenic outcomes

12.30pm, Tuesday 10 June 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The webinar will describe the use of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IPCS) guidelines in defining the mode of action (MOA) of chemically induced neoplasia in laboratory animal carcinogenesis studies. It will then go on to describe how the relevance of this MOA, to consequential human exposure, can be established. While introducing the broad steps to be taken in defining the MOA, the webinar will use specific chemical case examples of where the approach has proven to be valuable in the risk assessment process of confirming human safety of both drugs and agrochemicals. This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour

Autopsy webinar series – Neuropathology for the non-specialist

1pm, Wednesday 11 June 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This webinar will cover macroscopic and microscopic neuropathology which a general autopsy pathologist can diagnose, when to refer to a neuropathologist, and practical tips about what to refer. This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Steatotic liver disease

12.30pm, Wednesday 9 July 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This session will cover steatotic liver diseases covering the new nomenclature including metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), Alcohol related liver disease (ArLD), and how to differentiate between steatotic liver disease and steatohepatitis. **This event will take place via zoom at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.**

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 hepatic 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 – 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 – In-person](#)

Thursday, 5 June 2025

CPD credits: 6

[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

[Nominations for the 2025 John Maddox Prize](#)

Nominations and self-applications are now open for Standing Up for Science - The John Maddox Prize.

Standing up for Science - The John Maddox Prize, recognises researchers who stand up and speak out for science and evidence-based policy, advancing public discussion around difficult topics, despite challenges or hostility, and successfully making a change in public discourse or policy. Closing date for nominations – 30 April.

Other external events of interest

25 April 2025

[Advances in Molecular and Clinical Diagnosis for Haematological Malignancies](#)

27-29 April 2025

[British Society for Haematology Annual Scientific Meeting 2025](#)

28-29 April 2025

[Advanced prostate pathology course](#)

29 April- 02 May 2025

[London Gastrointestinal \(GI\) pathology update 2025](#)

1-2 May 2025

[British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Annual Scientific Meeting 2025](#)

06 May 2025

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

07 May 2025

[UK Forum on Haemoglobin Disorders \(UKFHD\) 59th Academic Meeting](#)

08-09 May 2025

[Edinburgh Haematopathology Tutorial](#)

09 May 2025

[Immune thrombocytopenic purpura \(ITP\) and other Autoimmune Cytopenias](#)

10 May 2025

[Immune thrombocytopenia \(ITP\) Support Association Annual Patient Convention 2025](#)

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](#)