



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – October 2025



President's Message

[Winter is coming...](#)

Already we are seeing considerable pressure on the NHS, with peaks in both new variants of COVID-19 and flu emerging – the importance of ensuring high uptakes of vaccines in the vulnerable needs to be reinforced.

Meanwhile, resident doctors in England have just announced another series of 5-day strikes beginning next month – add to this the threat of strike action by Foundation Year doctors over a lack of job opportunities, which will all put additional pressure on the delivery of care to patients. We would urge the Government and the BMA to resolve these disputes with great urgency.

[The Medical Training Review](#)

The [Medical Training Review Phase 1 Report](#) was published on Friday 24 October. While this review, carried out by Professor Chris Whitty and Professor Stephen Powis, was always going to be a diagnostic-type review rather than enacted policy changes, it is now clear that rapid overhaul of medical training is urgently required, especially given the competition ratios experienced by UK doctors when applying for specialty training posts.

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The conclusions and recommendations now need to be followed up by clear and concise action, otherwise the NHS risks losing a generation of talented doctors who feel undervalued and unable to develop the skills needed for safe, effective consultant practice.

Aberdeen to Belfast to Doha to London

I have just returned from Belfast, where I spent a few days meeting with the Northern Ireland Council of the College, along with Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael McBride, and Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Ian Young. We discussed the new Reset Plan, the Pathology Blueprint and the Carter Review. An excellent symposium followed, with the opportunity to meet with trainees afterwards.



Gareth McKeeman (RCPath NI Council Chair), Dr Bernie Croal and Professor Ian Young, Chief Scientific Advisor.

I am next heading to the Middle East to deliver 3 talks at the 1st Qatar Conference on Laboratory Medicine and Pathology in Doha. I also plan to visit a pathology lab there and meet with many RCPath fellows from the area. I then return to London for National Pathology Week, International Pathology Day, College Council and our AGM – another busy month for the College.

National Pathology Week 3–9 November

Our key event this year is *Pathology Solutions* – a parliamentary reception to demonstrate how pathology services underpin healthcare and are central to delivering the 3 shifts in the NHS 10-Year Plan.

We are delighted to be working with GP and MP Dr Simon Opher, who is sponsoring the event, which includes a programme of speeches, interactive stands and networking opportunities.

I would also like to thank our industry sponsors: Novo Nordisk, Roche Diagnostics and Illumina.

We are working with the Pathology Alliance to deliver a range of other activities, and I would like to thank all our members who are running an event for NPW in their hospitals and communities. There is still time to register your events on [our website](#).

International Pathology Day

Join us on Wednesday 5 November at our [virtual conference](#) to honour the vital contributions of pathology professionals around the world.

We're delighted to welcome Jim Campbell, Director of Health Workforce at the World Health Organization, who will open the event, which focuses on 'the Global Pathology Workforce'.

Sessions include:

- 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.

In Vitro Diagnostics Expert Advisory Group

The Interim Devices Working Group provides expert advice regarding decisions on the safety, performance, benefits and risks of devices in use in the UK healthcare system. It is looking to appoint a chair and new expert

members to the In Vitro Diagnostics Expert Advisory Group – information can be found at the link here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/interim-devices-working-group>

10-Year Workforce Plan for the NHS

The College is preparing a response to the Government's [call for evidence](#) in line with the 3 shifts identified in the plan: from hospital to community, analogue to digital and from sickness to prevention.

The call for evidence is currently open and closes on 11:59pm on 7 November 2025. Individual members can also respond.

Given the lack of funding in the system, it has been made clear by senior ministers and advisors that simply growing the workforce and spending more money in the NHS cannot be the solution. Instead, we need to look at using the resources and staff that we have, embrace technology such as automation, digital and AI, and look to different ways of working in order to improve productivity.

For pathology, bigger efforts in diagnostic stewardship to reduce demand on our services are also essential, especially given the predicted demographic changes and the impact on our services that that is likely to bring. For those services that are failing because of the lack of pathologists and scientists, we will still need to lobby hard to increase our training capacity and better retain the ones we already have.

Prostate cancer

Prostate cancer has recently [featured heavily across the media](#) in anticipation of the [National Screening Committee](#) decision on whether to introduce a national screening programme.

College members who specialise in urological pathology attended a parliamentary reception for the launch of the National Prostate Cancer Audit 2025 State of the Nation Report, and a reception for a Prostate Cancer Research report launch on targeted prostate cancer screening.

Prostate cancer was also one of the areas we covered in our [submission to the Government's Men's Health Strategy for England](#). See also [Dr Aiman Haider's article](#) in the October Bulletin.

Article in the *Pathologist*: Why men's health depends on pathology

[Dr Martin Goddard](#), College Subspecialty Advisor on Cardiac Pathology, was interviewed by the [Pathologist magazine](#), discussing the investment gaps in pathology services for men's health. We are calling for urgent investment in diagnostics, point-of-care testing, and laboratory integration to detect disease before irreversible damage occurs.

The interview followed [our submission to the Government's Men's Health Strategy for England](#).

Advocacy and influence

Dr Clair Evans, Chair of the Specialty Advisory Committee on paediatric and perinatal pathology, and I are meeting [Sarah Hall MP](#), Labour, Warrington South, and MPs from the areas most affected by the shortage of pathologists to carry out paediatric post-mortems. Sarah Hall is working to raise key issues in parliament, and we will use the opportunity to highlight our report on the paediatric and perinatal pathology workforce, which will be launched later this autumn.

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

Enabling AI Workflows in Pathology webinar

On Wednesday 10 September, the International Team, with speakers from around the world, delivered a webinar attended by over 400 people on Enabling AI Workflows in Pathology. Thank you to the speakers who delivered thoroughly engaging presentations.

The webinar recording is on [our website](#). For upcoming College events, please visit our [College Conference webpage](#).

The Pathology Portal continues to grow

The Pathology Portal recently celebrated 400,000 launches through the activity of those preparing for exams and accessing EQA's. There is a large range of content across almost 7,000 resources. If you would like to know more, the Pathology Portal team is organising another drop-in session for those who would like to learn more. Details to follow on the website and on the College social media channels.

Please feel free to get in touch with the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org and for more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#)!

New College report finds critical consultant shortages across immunology services

Our latest workforce report highlights severe shortages across immunology, with 3-quarters of UK services saying they don't have enough staff to meet demand. Immunology is essential to diagnosing and treating complex conditions, from allergies and autoimmune diseases to cancers and immunodeficiencies. Yet, services are now stretched to breaking point. In Scotland, just 2 consultants are covering the entire country.

The UK needs at least 44% more consultant immunologists to meet current demand, but many services are surviving only through unpaid overtime and goodwill. The impact on patients is already clear, with delays to diagnosis and treatment, and consultants at high risk of burnout.

Without urgent action, which means more training posts, investment in modernised services and stronger retention measures, access to safe and specialist care will only deteriorate. Read the full report on [our website](#).

Recommendation on the use of tumour staging systems from the College's Working Group on Cancer Services

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services has reviewed its recommendations for the use of staging systems following the recent publication of TNM Classification of Tumours, 9th edition.

The College recommends transition to TNM 9 from 1 January 2026 for patients diagnosed on or after this date. The subspecialties that differ from this can be found in full on the website: [Recommendation on the use of tumour staging systems from the College's Working Group on Cancer Services \(October 2025\)](#).

The College is in the process of updating new appendices for each dataset to update the staging and reporting proformas to adhere to updates from TNM 9.

Seasonal influenza vaccine

The seasonal flu vaccine is being offered to all frontline healthcare workers, including both clinical and non-clinical staff, through your employer. You can also book a [flu vaccine online](#).

We urge you to come forward for your flu vaccine as soon as possible to protect yourself and enable you to continue to help patients during winter.

[Opportunities for infection diagnostics in the shift from hospital to community care](#)

12:30pm, Wednesday 22 October 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Join us for this free lunchtime webinar on point-of-care testing (POCT). Speakers will discuss the challenges of providing a high quality POCT service in the community and of working across systems on new community pathways. They will talk about using technology to respond to errors, troubleshoot and remotely monitor the use of a service, lessons learned, and the importance of real-world evidence to support the changes required for successful implementation.

The webinar is being delivered in partnership with bioMérieux, and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

From hospital to community – partnering to transform respiratory Point-of-Care Testing

12:30pm, Tuesday 18 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Join us for this free lunchtime webinar on flu test and treat. Respiratory infections are a major contributor to winter pressures in healthcare, particularly within secondary where they drive increases in emergency attendance, admissions and hospital bed occupancy. Implementing a community-based ‘test and treat’ pathway incorporating a POCT offers a practical and scalable approach to reducing patient deterioration and avoiding unnecessary hospitalisation.

The webinar is being delivered in partnership with Roche Diagnostics and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Educational Update 2025 meeting

09:45–12:00, Friday 7 November

This annual meeting will be held remotely on Friday 7 November 2025 at 9:45am to 12:00pm. The theme is ‘Future of Training’ and the keynote speaker is Professor Geoff Smith, Interim Medical Director, Education Reform. This event is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and medical virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend.

The programme and how to book your place is [available here](#).

Get involved in the College

Get involved in National Pathology Week, 3–9 November

National Pathology Week (NPW) is the UK’s annual celebration of pathology. Organised by the College in partnership with the Pathology Alliance, NPW highlights the essential work pathologists and laboratory scientists do to diagnose and prevent disease. The theme for 2025 is ‘Pathology Solutions’, a reflection of the advances being made in pathology to improve disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The College and Pathology Alliance invite all members to support NPW by organising local or hospital-based activities – in-person or online.

Visit our [resources section](#) for planning tips, event ideas, and free downloadable [activity packs](#). If you’re already planning an event, don’t forget to register it [on our website](#) so it can be included in the national programme. You can download National Pathology Week logos and other digital assets from the [NPW page](#) and you can order promotional materials [here](#).

Get involved with the Social Mobility Foundation

There are currently 2 opportunities to get involved with the [Social Mobility Foundation](#) (SMF) and their medical school students from low-income backgrounds.

Specialities Showcase Tuesday 21 October 5:30–7pm

The SMF is inviting passionate doctors to speak at an online event designed to help medical students discover and explore a wide range of specialities. As a speaker, you'll have the chance to share your personal journey, what drew you to your field, the unique opportunities it offers and the highs and lows of your day-to-day work. You'll also take part in small-group breakout sessions, giving students the chance to ask their burning questions and gain deeper insight into your speciality. If you're keen to inspire future doctors, [sign up here](#) and the SMF team will be in touch soon with more details!

Specialities Bios

The SMF is also creating short 'Specialities Bios', giving students an opportunity to explore different areas and providing a jumping off point for more research. Students from low-income backgrounds often don't get insight into certain specialities or may even believe they aren't 'for them', and that's where you come in! The SMF would love you to share experience of your speciality as well as hints and tips regarding development opportunities and networking. Please fill in [this form](#) to provide your all-important insight!

International news

Join us this November for our virtual conference for International Pathology Day

Wednesday 5 November 2025, 10.00–2.35 pm

Our themed virtual conference celebrates the vital contributions of pathology professionals worldwide. This year's theme, 'the Global Pathology Workforce,' shines a spotlight on the dedication and expertise of pathologists and laboratory scientists who are central to healthcare systems across the globe.

The event will be chaired by the President of the Royal College of Pathologists, Dr Bernie Croal and is sponsored and hosted in partnership with the [British Society for Haematology \(BSH\)](#) and [Diagnexia](#).

Find out more and secure your place at [our event page](#).

Join us for a free webinar series The hidden hazard: Recognising and preventing burnout

The series begins on Wednesday 19 November and will run weekly from 15:00–16:30, concluding on Wednesday 10 December.

This 4-part webinar series, led by Jayne Morris (the UK's leading Executive Burnout Coach and founder of Balanceology), will explain some of the key causes

of burnout and offers a compassionate, evidence-based approach to preventing burnout, building resilience and fostering sustainable working practices.

Each session is grounded in neuroscience, informed by lived experiences and designed to spark reflection, discussion and practical action.

These webinars are appropriate for all career stages, whether you lead teams or want to support the wellbeing of your colleagues or organisation. This series will help you to create healthier working environments starting with care for yourself and your teams.

You will need to register for each webinar separately via the below links:

- [Wednesday 19 November – Understanding burnout: What it is and why it matters](#)
- [Wednesday 26 November – Spotting burnout in your team: A guide for managers and leaders](#)
- [Wednesday 3 December – Burnout in the system: Understanding organisational contributors](#)
- [Wednesday 10 December – Burnout and belonging: Supporting cultural transitions in the UK workplace](#)

Regional news

Call for regional representatives to join the New Consultants Committee

We would like to hear from new consultant pathologists and clinical scientists based in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales who are interested in joining the College's New Consultants Committee. This newly established committee exists to advise Council on matters concerning new consultants in the UK.

This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference, with a chance to inform debate on matters including the professional, clinical and continuing professional education functions relating to College members who are new consultants. It is also a chance for you to network with your peers, inform the work of the College and support your professional development.

Information on the role and how to apply can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Monday 10 November 2025.

Call for applications: Chair of the Cytopathology Sub-committee

The College is inviting applications from fellows for the role of Chair of the Cytopathology Sub-committee. The sub-committee exists to advise Council on matters, including the professional, clinical and continuing professional education functions relating to the specialty.

As Chair, you will provide expertise and leadership for the sub-committee by:

- leading the committee and enabling it to fulfil its purpose
-

- ensuring an effective relationship between the committee and College Council, the committee and College staff, and the committee and external stakeholders
- acting as a spokesperson and College specialty representative, as appropriate.

Information on the role and how to apply can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Monday 10 November 2025.

Call for nominations for various College roles

There are 2 Trustee and 1 Council Member vacancies open at the College for nominations, to take effect from the AGM in November this year:

- Chair, Wales Regional Council
- Chair, Northern Ireland Council
- Council member (England South).

Nominations close on 27 October 2025.

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

College courses and events

[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 2 lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of direct and 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.

RCPATH/BNS PathExplore: (Neuro)pathology teaching for undergraduates – Webinar 2

Monday, 15 December 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Are you a medical undergraduate and keen to improve your pathology knowledge? Then why not sign up to the RCPATH/BNS Undergraduate Pathology Teaching! The teaching is delivered by a group of expert neuropathologists who will teach you about the fundamental aspects of the mechanisms of disease, including inflammation, cancer, infection, thrombosis, infarction, neurodegeneration and much more! As well as basic pathology knowledge, each session will be supplemented with plenty of fascinating case examples from the world of neuropathology!

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

Autopsy webinar series – Autopsy liver pathology

Wednesday, 21 January 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

Autopsy webinar series – Coroner's court

Wednesday, 28 January 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Attending Coroner's court can be a daunting experience for trainee pathologists and consultants, particularly as fewer inquests require a pathologist to attend, and pathologists may only be called to attend for more complicated cases. During this webinar, we will hear from experienced Coroners, both medical and legal, experienced consultants and a trainee experience of Coroner's court. This webinar will help you understand the purpose and format of a Coroner's inquest, what the Coroner expects from a pathologist, how to give evidence and how to answer questions from other persons in the court.

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

An introduction to health economics for clinicians

Thursday, 29 January 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Health economics provides tools to understand how limited healthcare resources can be used most effectively to improve patient outcomes. This webinar will introduce key concepts in health economics and demonstrate their relevance to everyday clinical decision-making.

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

Autopsy webinar series – Maternal death part 2

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

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 2 lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of direct and 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.

Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar series

The College is delighted to announce a webinar series organised jointly with the European Society of Pathology, Virchows Archives and the International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA).

Each of the topics published by Virchows addressing paediatric tumours will be presented at the webinar series.

Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 4

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Webinar 4 talks:

- Spitz tumours and mimickers – Arnaud de la Fouchardiere
- Emerging round cell sarcomas in children – Jessica Davis.

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

Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 5

Tuesday, 25 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Webinar 5 talks:

- Paediatric renal tumours: an update on challenges and recent developments – Gino Somers/Maureen O’Sullivan
- Congenital melanocytic neoplasms: clinical, histopathological and recent molecular developments – Claudia Salgado.

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

Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 6

Wednesday, 26 November 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Webinar 6 talks:

- Updates on Langerhans cell histiocytosis and other histiocytosis in children: invited review – challenges and novelties in paediatric tumours – Laura Galluzzo Mutti
- Paediatric lymphomas: overview and diagnostic challenges – Leticia Quintanilla

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, 14 January 2026

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 – training

Wednesday, 29 April 2026

CPD credits: 6

National Pathology Week at the College

3–9 November 2025

Pathology solutions: How tests help patients

Wednesday 5 November from 6 to 8pm

A virtual event for sixth formers and undergraduates, delivered in partnership with the Pathology Alliance, this free event will feature short, engaging talks explaining how pathology tests support prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Find out more information and book a place [here](#).

Pathology quiz for undergraduates

Wednesday 12 November at 2pm GMT

The NPW and International Pathology Day (IPD) teams are jointly hosting a special online pathology quiz for undergraduates. Those studying relevant undergraduate courses anywhere in the world will be able to participate.

Pathology for undergraduates and foundation doctors – Mystery cases

Thursday 6 November at 6pm GMT

Dr Matt Clarke, the College's Undergraduate and Foundation Lead, will talk you through a range of interesting and mysterious cases where finding the diagnosis has been a challenge.

LEPT drop-in sessions

These sessions are for all trainees but may be more beneficial for new trainees who started pathology training since August 2025.

The Teams meeting joining details for the sessions are available in a document on the homepage of the LEPT system.

For more information click here: <https://www.rcpath.org/event/lept-drop-in-session-2.html>

Other external events of interest

23 October 2025

[UK Myelodysplastic syndrome \(MDS\) Education Day](#)

23 October 2025

[Backlogs webinar: Interesting bladder cases - to help in everyday reporting](#)

23–25 October 2025

[50th Anniversary International Conference - College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka 2025](#)

27–28 October 2025

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Winter Conference: Infection 2025](#)

04 November 2025

[British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy \(BSBMTCT\) Education Day](#)

04–05 November 2025

[Microbiology Society Annual Meeting in Ireland](#)

06 November 2025

[UK Myeloma Society Autumn Day](#)

06 November 2025

[Backlogs webinar: Pancreatic Tumours Made Simple: From Diagnosis to Classification](#)

07 November 2025

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course](#)

07 November 2025

[UK Lymphoma Research Group](#)

11 November 2025

[Getting it right for the patient, are we good enough?](#)

13 November 2025

[Backlogs webinar: Blistering disorders of skin](#)

14 November 2025

[Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Advances Day 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](#)
