



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – February 2023



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President's Message

RCPATH Workforce Survey 2023

In March 2023, the College will be launching its most ambitious and comprehensive survey of the pathology workforce to date.

To obtain a full picture of the pathology profession, the survey will cover workload, staffing, vacancies, locum cover and the working environment.

We can only advocate for the pathology profession if we have the right evidence and data. The results of the survey will be used to influence politicians and policy makers.

The survey will be sent to Clinical Directors in early March. Please remind your Clinical Director to complete the survey. If you have any questions, please contact the Workforce team at workforce@rcpath.org.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Diagnostics

I'm delighted to announce that the APPG for Diagnostics, a joint initiative with the Royal College of Radiologists, had its inaugural meeting on 8 February in Westminster. I gave a presentation on the importance of pathology in diagnostics.

Chaired by [Maggie Throup MP](#), the APPG has been launched to raise the profile of the importance of diagnostics in the Westminster parliament.

Government Cancer plan

The College supported [World Cancer Day](#) on 4 February.

It was extremely disappointing to hear therefore that the government has dropped its plan to publish the 10

Year Cancer Plan for England. The Cancer Plan has been subsumed into a new Major Conditions Strategy. This is a mistake. Recent figures show only 61% of patients in England started treatment within 62 days of an urgent suspected cancer referral. The government target of 85% has not been met since 2015, before the pandemic. A dedicated cancer plan would help ensure that the NHS maintains cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment as a core priority.

We are continuing to push for the publication of the long-term workforce plan.

Highlighting workforce pressures

It was great to hear Professor Angharad Davies, Vice President for Learning at the College, speaking at the [Westminster Health Forum](#) conference on [workforce pressures facing the specialist infection workforce when tackling antimicrobial resistance](#).

Veterinary pathology and visit to London Zoo

I was delighted to [visit London Zoo](#) to meet veterinary pathology members to find out more about their work to diagnose and treat diverse species. Their amazing work increases understanding of pathology of disease in animals and humans.

Jo's Trust report

Jo's Trust report, [The opportunities and challenges to eliminating cervical cancer in the UK](#), was endorsed by the College. The report outlines the current state of cervical cancer prevention in the UK, the challenges affecting the workforce and patients, and opportunities.

There is significant focus on the difficulties faced by pathology, including recruitment, retention and out-dated IT equipment. The report was covered in the media including in [The Independent](#).

Turkey – Syria Earthquake

The College has been shocked and profoundly saddened to learn of the catastrophic consequences of the earthquakes affecting Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and Syria.

Our thoughts are with all those affected, and with all our colleagues in the region supporting the emergency response in such distressing circumstances. If you feel able to help the rescue and support efforts, the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal link can be found here: [Home | Disasters Emergency Committee \(dec.org.uk\)](#)

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

Working for members

Nominate the next College President!

The nomination phase for the election of the next College President opened on Friday 6 January 2023 and nominations will be accepted up to midday on Friday 3 March 2023.

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

The President is the face of the College and, through active engagement of the membership, represents the organisation and the views of its members at national and international levels.

The President will work with the Chair of the Trustee Board in reviewing the College Strategy. They will also work closely with the honorary officers, Trustee Board, Council and Senior Management Team to develop and work towards a forward plan and budgets that align with the College's core aims. Information on the role can be [found here](#).

Changes to Diagnostic Neuropathology and Paediatric Pathology recruitment – College action

The Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection (MDRS) Recruitment Group recently made changes to the recruitment process for higher specialty trainees, requiring examinations to be passed before offers are issued. This has affected recruitment to Diagnostic Neuropathology and Paediatric Pathology as the offer dates are about one month before the issue of the examination results. Following representations by the College the MDRS [has clarified the situation for 2023](#).

As a result of our work, the College now has a seat on the MDRS Recruitment Group so that we will be part of any future discussions and decisions about postgraduate medical recruitment.

The Pathology Portal

Pathology Portal editors have been busy collecting learning resources and reviewing materials. Thanks go to them for all their work. In the genetics and genomics area, a fantastic collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory - European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), as well as excellent contributions from faculty and colleagues, has led to a rapid expansion of modules, many applicable across a wide range of curricula. One such example is the module on the use of [mass spectrometry based proteomics in discovering biological information](#)

A generous donation of thousands of images and materials, from Dr Yale Rosen from New York, has kept the team busy uploading brilliant resources in granulomatous diseases, foreign bodies and pulmonary diseases. An example is [the foreign body compilation](#).

Finally, a web form for international members has been developed on the College website to make access to the Pathology Portal easier.

Work continues on populating all our specialty areas. The Pathology Portal team listens and responds to feedback, so do [contact them](#) with suggestions and offers of resources.

Launch of the Fellowship Research Start-Up Grant

The College Research Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the Fellowship Research Start-Up Grant, which provides support to postgraduate and undergraduate students at the beginning of their research project for up to one year. A maximum amount of £4,000 is awarded to postgraduate students and £1,000 to undergraduate students. The grants can support work in any discipline of medical or veterinary pathology and are not restricted to cellular pathology or histopathology. Full details of the submission process, eligibility criteria and application form are available on the [website](#).

LEPT instructional videos

There are a range of instructional videos as aids on how to navigate around the new LEPT system most effectively. From the [College website](#), LEPT users can log into the new LEPT system and access the video links for trainees and non-trainees. The video links are in the Alerts section on the LEPT homepage.

The LEPT system – Chemical Pathology, Oral Maxillofacial Pathology Training and Cellular Pathology

Trainees in the above specialties who have moved from the old LEPT system to the new LEPT system will soon have their training items migrated across too. Watch this space!

Save the date – National Pathology Week 2023

A reminder to save the dates for National Pathology Week (NPW) 2023 – 19 to 25 June. We've moved NPW to June permanently, following our Diamond Jubilee celebrations last year. Our theme this year is 'Pathologists and Patients' and you can get ahead with the planning by downloading NPW logos [here](#). [Get in touch with the Public Engagement team](#) if you would like more information.

Pathology Ambassadors – free webinar about national volunteering scheme

Join us on 22 February at 1pm or 4pm for a free and informative online session about a brand new national public engagement volunteering scheme. Led by Dr Tom Barton at [STEM Learning](#), the session will introduce the 'Pathology Ambassadors' scheme and explain the simple steps for getting involved. The scheme is part of the [STEM Ambassador programme](#). It has been developed especially for RCPATH members and involves just one day or session of volunteering per year. Attending the 45-min session will not commit you to anything. Places are free but please register [here](#) to be sent the Teams link.

This year's RCPATH Science Communication Prize is now open

The award is kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and is given to a pathology trainee, Foundation doctor or undergraduate who has shown excellence in their science communication activities. Find out more at www.rcpath.org/scicommprize.

Apply for funding for your pathology-themed public events

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers the chance to get up to £1,000 for your public events and activities. Apply using the form [on our website](#) by 1 July. Read about past recipients for inspiration [here](#).

Get involved at the College

Apply to be a CESR Assessor

If you are interested in becoming involved with the College, becoming a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) assessor is a good way to do so. The role of a CESR assessor is to determine whether or not each CESR applicant meets the standard for their specialty and 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 CESR assessors can self-accredit for CPD points for each CESR 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 by Monday 27 March.

Become a Country Advisor in the Western Pacific region

The College has a global multidisciplinary membership, with 23% of its members currently based outside the UK. The International team is inviting applications until Monday 27 February 2023, 23.59 (UK time), from Fellows of the College who have at least 5 years' experience as a practising pathologist. You do not have to reside in the country that you wish to represent, but the quality and strength of your professional relationship and links with pathologists, laboratory professionals and institutions within your chosen country will be considered. [Find out more about the role and apply](#). Over the course of the next 6 months, there will also be opportunities for Country Advisors to be appointed in the Americas.

New member needed for the Working Group on Cancer Services

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services is seeking to recruit a new cellular pathology member who has a broad knowledge base in cellular pathology reporting and is 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 Monday 6 March.

Audit evaluators needed – Earn CPD credits

We are still searching for audit assessors in cellular pathology, clinical biochemistry, haematology and medical microbiology to assess if the audit criteria and standards are being met effectively. The assessment method comprises of tick-boxes and a brief text field, and it takes between 10 and 15 minutes. Each evaluation will earn you 1 CPD credit. For further information and to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#).

Regional news

Northern Ireland Symposium 2023 – Save the date

Symposium to be held on 25 May 2023 in Belfast.

New publications

National Medical Examiner's Good Practice Series

The latest in the Good Practice Series focuses on how medical examiners should approach issues concerning homelessness.

Guideline consultations

The following guideline is open for consultation on the [College website](#). We welcome your feedback.

- Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the oral cavity.

College conferences and symposia

[Discover Pathology Events: Undergraduate Pathology Educational Lecture Series](#) February–March 2023

This new series of evening virtual webinars is aimed at undergraduate medical students who wish to find out about pathology specialties under the umbrella of the College. The aim is to supplement students' learning in pathology, highlight what pathologists do, how we do it and how our work influences the care of patients. The events are free to attend and open to all healthcare professionals at an early stage of their learning.

[RCPATH Freddie Flynn Symposium](#)

1 March 2023

This special symposium is co-organised with the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB), with a programme reflecting and celebrating the work of Professor Freddie Flynn.

Tickets can be bought with a two-day conference ticket for the ACB National Meeting, which is taking place between 7–9 November at the Royal College of Pathologists.

[Trainee Digital Pathology Symposium – Hybrid Event](#)

24 March 2023

6 CPD credits

This symposium will explore wide-ranging aspects of digital pathology, encompassing its incorporation into training, an exploration of artificial intelligence and discussion around its ethical considerations. While broad in scope, there is a deliberate focus on pathology training issues. The symposium is open to all practicing pathologists but will be of particular interest to cellular pathology trainees and consultants involved in training (including training programme directors and educational supervisors).

A day to further delve into a rapidly expanding field which will be an excellent primer for those embarking on their digital pathology journey. Join us to learn more about how digital pathology will complement training and beyond.

[Paediatric dermatopathology course – Hybrid Event](#)

24 April 2023

6 CPD credits

We are excited to bring to you this in person paediatric dermatopathology course. This course is aimed at paediatric histopathologists, dermatopathologists and trainees who want to gain more insight into paediatric dermatopathology. It is a one-day course designed to learn from the experts about challenging cases in this field.

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 26 mandatory 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 Face to Face Training – Virtual](#)

Thursday 23 March 2023

6 CPD credits

[Medical Examiner Training – In Person](#)

Wednesday 14 June 2023

6 CPD credits

[Medical Examiner training – Virtual](#)

Thursday 21 September 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical Examiner Face to Face Training – Virtual

Thursday 23 March 2023

6 CPD credits

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

Thursday 16 February 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Thursday 20 April 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Thursday 29 June 2023

6 CPD credits

News from external organisations

Do you report melanoma lymph node specimens?

If so, please consider completing an anonymous 3-minute survey regarding your experience with these specimens. The survey can be found [here](#).

For further information, please contact: **Emily Clarke**, ST3 Histopathology Registrar, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow, University of Leeds, Enrichment Student, Alan Turing Institute, Trainee Representative, [British Society for Dermatopathology](#).
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Other external events of interest

New fee structure for CPD approval of national/international events

There is a new fee structure for the approval of national/international events for CPD purposes. Full details are available via the [CPD approval webpage](#).

06 March 2023

[BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day](#)

06–09 March 2023

[How to design and deliver pathogen genomics training for health and research professionals](#)

07 March 2023

[BDIAP Approach to Cut-up Study Day](#)

08 March 2023

[UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day](#)

10 March 2023

[National ALL Update Day](#)

20 March 2023

[What's New in Haematological Malignancies](#)

22 March 2023

[Transforming Digital Pathology & AI: The Path Forward](#)

23 March 2023

[UK Myeloma Society Spring Day](#)

24 March 2023

[The old and the new – morphology and digital pathology in gynaecological pathology](#)

24–25 March 2023

[Mycology Fungal Update 2023](#)

03–04 April 2023

[CSC Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

18 April 2023

[DECON UK 2023](#)

25 April 2023

[An Introduction to Guideline Development](#)

03 May 2023

[UK FHD 55th Academic Meeting](#)

12 May 2023

[ITP Update Day](#)

16–17 May 2023

[BIA Spring Meeting 2023](#)

17 May 2023

[BSBMTCT Scientific Day](#)

01–02 June 2023

[London GI Pathology Update](#)

15–16 June 2023

[Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes Course 2023](#)

29 June 2023

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference](#)

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

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

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