

The views expressed in the statements are the views of the candidate and not those of the College

Professor Christopher Foster

President

I would bring to the office of the President of the Royal College of Pathologists demonstrable expertise in organisation, administration and leadership attained over several years as Professor and Head of a large department of diagnostic and academic pathology at Liverpool University and as Medical Director of Pathology Laboratories creating a new department of pathology serving five clinical centres in London. I have the commitment to drive change on behalf of all pathology specialities and the time necessary to devote to the role of President to accomplish the tasks identified.

At Liverpool University, I negotiated the merger of pathology laboratories and competitive tendering between laboratories for different diagnostic services. I was uniquely involved in resolving events at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, in the subsequent Inquiry and thereafter in the outcome of the Inquiry on pathology practice within the UK. I was appointed Director of Workforce at the Royal College where I developed an interactive algorithm to predict the available workforce required to address the expanding workload within the UK and successfully argue for an expansion in pathology establishment and funding. I was Chair of the North West Pathology Modernisation Committee and a member of the national committee (Lord Carter's) – reporting to the Royal College and also to the Department of Health (DH) on pathology procedures and working practices. In London, I established a new department of cellular pathology (HCA International), including integration of molecular genetics and oversight of quality analysis and reporting services. Latterly, I developed one of the largest and most integrated point of care testing (POCT) service in the UK to provide a rapid diagnostic facility in five clinical sites.

While at Liverpool, I raised funding from North West NHS to construct a contemporary mortuary facility (including forensic pathology) and from the Wolfson Foundation to establish a molecular and cellular biology research laboratory to identify genes promoting the metastatic phenotype. I supervised PhD students, wrote research papers and published text books on prostate and urinary bladder pathology. I continue to report urological pathology and lead prostate cancer pathology for the International Cancer Genome Consortium. I remain an active member of the Advisory Group for CT-PAG (Clinical Trial Pathology Advisory Group) within the NCRI.

Through the office of the President, my immediate concern would be to guide the Royal College of Pathologists through the post-Covid-19 healthcare environment so that Pathology would be a core contributor to delivery of revised healthcare within the UK. Thereafter, my objectives would be to enhance skills of the workforce in all laboratory specialities through education including expansion of digital technology and in molecular genetics as core members of genomics review boards to interpret genomics data and advise on the team-management of patients. The pathology workforce required within the UK would reflect the revised skills of its membership, embrace new digital technologies, including remote working, POCT and interpretation of contemporary genomics. In achieving these objectives, my experience of working with the DH and NHS would be invaluable skills.

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April 2020

Word Count: 493