



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

**PATHOLOGY
IS GLOBAL**

Pathology is Global

International strategy 2019–22

Our mission

Advance the science and practice of pathology.

Further public education in the field of pathology.

Promote study, research and innovation in pathology and disseminate results.

Our vision

Engaged and inspired professionals delivering excellence in pathology practice for the benefit of the public.

A College supporting members, developing and maintaining high standards in pathology education, training and research to deliver the best patient care.

A College improving awareness and understanding of pathology.

Our values

Teamwork – we achieve excellence by working together.

Service – we support members to deliver the best patient care.

Ambition – we aspire to provide the best quality services and lead innovation for pathology.

Introduction

The Pathology is Global strategy for 2019–22 sets out the College's vision for promoting and advancing excellence in pathology internationally. The objectives of this strategy reflect those of the College's Strategy for 2019–22, and the way in which we aim to deliver these strategic objectives on an international scale are described in this strategy. The strategic objectives acknowledge that there is sometimes a focus on specific regions where the College has existing collaborations and/or which allow for potential growth of the College's support and membership.

The first Pathology is Global strategy ran from 2013 to 2018 and laid the foundations of the College's international work. This new three-year strategy aims to build on the successes of the last five years, while aligning the work with the College's overall objectives.

The Royal College of Pathologists has a longstanding tradition and record of engaging internationally on global health issues and addressing matters relating to the improvement of pathology training, research and practice worldwide.

Founded in 1962, the College has developed into a global multidisciplinary membership body. Approximately 23% of College Fellows and members are based outside of the UK, working in hospitals, industry, laboratories, universities, international governmental and non-governmental organisations and ministries of health. In addition, many of the College's UK members are involved in a diverse range of international projects, collaborations and exchange programmes. The new College building will allow technology enabled learning to be shared with members around the world.

Pathology is Global 2019–22 serves as the College's long-term commitment to raising international standards in pathology, engaging overseas members more effectively and sharing the College's knowledge, expertise, services and ideas as widely as possible for the benefit of all.

The College's international regions are as follows, along with the current percentage of international members:

- Americas (13%)
- Europe (24%)
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (18%)
- South East Asia (SEA) (15%)
- sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (3%)
- Western Pacific (26%).

Develop and maintain high standards of pathology education, training and research

The RCPATH International team will develop and maintain high standards of pathology education, training and research. The College sets the standards for pathology education, training and research to improve patient care and safety. We are committed to leading the world-wide development of these standards. We aim for members in all countries to demonstrate excellence in the practice of pathology and to support them in this ambition.

We will achieve this through delivering these strategic objectives.

Provide support for examinations and candidates overseas

- Pilot the RCPATH recognition framework for non-UK postgraduate specialty programmes. (Initial focus on Europe and MENA.)
- Review international centres that can host the College's exams based on demand. (Relevant existing regions.)
- Work with UK examiners to develop overseas exam coordinators. (Relevant existing regions.)
- Develop the International Training Support Scheme (ITSS) programme and introduce the scheme to more RCPATH specialties. (All regions.)
- Support overseas candidates in preparation for FRCPath examinations. (All regions.)

Promote capacity building to improve pathology provision in resource-poor countries

- Recognise collaborations between international agencies, government departments, non-governmental organisations and professional pathology bodies with signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs). (All regions; see Appendix 1.)
- Support projects aimed at raising standards and developing the pathology workforce in resource-poor countries using the award-winning LabSkills Africa model. (Initial focus on SSA.)
- Support exchange visits enabling overseas pathologists to gain specific skills. (All regions.)

Support the professional development of international members and trainees

- Develop e-learning tools to make training accessible internationally; for example, webinars (live and recorded), online assessments and accredited continuing professional development (CPD) activities. (All regions.)
- Expand pathology opportunities within the NHS Employers Medical Training Initiative (MTI), which provides overseas trainees with clinical training in the NHS, and provide support for overseas trainees through other training opportunities. (Initial focus on MENA, SEA, SSA.)
- Encourage high-quality research to advance the global practice of pathology and international submissions for publication on the RCPATH publishing platform. (All regions.)

Promote excellence and advance knowledge in pathology practice

The College's International team will work with international members to promote excellence and advance knowledge in pathology practice and improve the services they deliver to patients in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

We will achieve this through delivering these strategic objectives.

Promote overseas volunteering opportunities

- Promote opportunities to volunteer for RCPATH activities overseas. (All regions.)
- Utilise College and external platforms to further promote international activities, such as International Pathology Day. (All regions.)
- Showcase examples of positive outcomes from international activity. (All regions.)

Deliver high standards, audit and quality assurance practices overseas

- Support projects that seek to enhance pathology services by promoting continuous quality improvement and assurance methodologies. (Initial focus on MENA and SSA.)
- Work with other agencies and organisations (for example, UKAS) to improve governance and demonstrable measures of pathology services quality. (All regions.)

Develop an actively engaged international membership

- Encourage international members and groups to engage with the work of the College by communicating with them and regularly inviting their views. (All regions.)
- Ensure the work of international volunteers is recognised by the College. (All regions.)

Increase the College's influence through a clear, coherent, professional voice

We are committed to identifying methods and opportunities to promote the awareness and understanding of pathology globally, increasing the influence and relevance of the College among overseas members, policy makers and the public. By communicating the central role that pathology plays in patient care, outcomes and safety, we will strengthen our position as an expert pathology body, extend our influence and affect international policy for the benefit of patients and pathologists.

We will achieve this through delivering these strategic objectives.

Raise awareness and understanding of the role and contribution of pathology to global health

- Provide support and opportunities for members to promote pathology through International Pathology Day. (All regions.)
- Recognise the expertise and contribution of the wider pathology workforce by promoting opportunities for College membership. (All regions.)

Advocate and promote the role of the College around the world

- Promote the work of the College so that it is recognised as a global expert in pathology. (All regions.)
- Engage with key opinion leaders and stakeholders internationally; for example, International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (ILPP), International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR), World Health Organisation (WHO). (All regions.)

Support current and future pathologists throughout their careers

- Raise awareness of the importance of pathology. (All regions.)
- Inspire the next generation of pathologists by promoting pathology at undergraduate level; for example, through the International Pathology Summer School (IPSS) programme. (All regions.)
- Build a toolkit to support overseas Fellows in future independent delivery of the IPSS programme, which will provide potential candidates for RCPATH-accredited training programmes and overseas examinations. (All regions.)

Resource the future of the College

We are a responsible, sustainable organisation committed to delivering first class services to our members. The College International team will make best use of resources and improve financial stability in order to achieve the strategic aims and charitable objectives of RCPATH.

We will achieve this through delivering these strategic objectives.

Develop a project portfolio related to 'Pathology is Global'

- Seek funding to support project activities. (Initial focus on Europe, MENA, SSA.)
- Align current College-wide activities to assist in the delivery of international projects and aims. (All regions.)

Appendix 1: Signed memoranda of understanding, as at February 2019

Organisation	Date	Priority areas
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan and Pakistani Association of Pathology	November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty training and exams • Continuing professional development (CPD)/continuing medical education (CME) • Research
The Egyptian Committee for Pathology Training, April 2015, Egyptian Military Medical Services	July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development and training • CPD • Pathology specialties • Laboratory services
National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria	November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development and specialty training • Examinations • CPD/CME • Laboratory systems strengthening • Policy, research and advocacy
Khartoum State Ministry of Health, Soba University Hospital & UK Sudanese Diaspora Pathology Group	February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development and training • CPD • Pathology specialties • Laboratory services
Arab Board of Health Specializations	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development and specialty training • Examinations • CPD/CME • Laboratory systems strengthening • Policy, research and advocacy

The Royal College of Pathologists is a professional membership organisation with more than 11,000 fellows, affiliates and trainees, of which 23% are based outside of the UK. We are committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology, for the benefit of patients.

Our members include medically and veterinary qualified pathologists and clinical scientists in 17 different specialties, including cellular pathology, haematology, clinical biochemistry, medical microbiology and veterinary pathology.

The College works with pathologists at every stage of their career. We set curricula, organise training and run exams, publish clinical guidelines and best practice recommendations and provide continuing professional development. We engage a wide range of stakeholders to improve awareness and understanding of pathology and the vital role it plays in everybody's healthcare. Working with members, we run programmes to inspire the next generation to study science and join the profession.

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