

**29 October 2014 - Press Release**

## **The Royal College of Pathologists hosts first annual International Pathology Day as part of National Pathology Week 2014**

[National Pathology Week 3-9 November 2014](#) is a celebration of pathology, the science behind the diagnosis of disease, and the remarkable work of pathologists, through a programme of nationwide activities aimed at people of all ages.

Hosted by The Royal College of Pathologists, the week will also feature the first annual [International Pathology Day](#) on 5 November. International Pathology Day is a collaboration of pathologists, scientists and organisations from around the world and is an opportunity to recognise the contribution and important role played by pathology and laboratory medicine services in addressing global health challenges and improving the health outcomes of people and communities around the world.

Events to celebrate National Pathology Week and International Pathology Day include:

- Highlighting the importance of digital pathology, Pathology Diagnostics in Cambridge will be broadcasting live on community radio station Cambridge 105 throughout International Pathology Day.
- Singapore General Hospital will use International Pathology Day as an opportunity to showcase various aspects of laboratory medicine and pathology services. The hospital will also help celebrate the day by promoting careers in pathology.
- As a result of research before and during World War One, exciting medical innovations in pathology revolutionised both military and civilian medicine. Ministry of Defence pathologists Dr Heidi Doughty and Dr Emma Hutley will be at the [Hunterian Museum](#) on 4 November, as they discuss the challenges and innovations of frontline medicine, both past and present.

Dr Suzy Lishman, President Elect, The Royal College of Pathologists said:

On International Pathology Day and during National Pathology Week, pathologists and scientists from the nineteen different pathology specialties including haematologists, histopathologists, medical microbiologists, clinical biochemists and immunologists will be hosting hundreds of events to increase people's understanding and interest in pathology. From quizzes and science fairs to school visits to pathology laboratories, visitors will have the opportunity to be able to explore the complex and fascinating world of pathology for themselves."

Research undertaken by The Royal College of Pathologists found that many people associate pathology with death and detecting crime. This view has been largely created and reinforced by television stereotypes of forensic pathologists who in reality make up less than 1% of the specialty.

Far from being doctors to the dead, the vast majority of pathologists work for the benefit of the living. Millions of tests are interpreted by pathologists every year, in fact:

- 70% of all diagnoses in the NHS are undertaken by pathologists.



- Nearly 800 million tests are performed annually in England and Wales - 14 pathology tests for every man, woman and child.

#### **Ends**

**For further information about National Pathology Week 2014 and International Pathology Day 5 November, please contact The Royal College of Pathologists Press & Communications Department on Tel: 020 7451 6752/ 0757 834 9018 or**

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#### **Notes to editors:**

- The Royal College of Pathologists covers all aspects of laboratory medicine including microbiology, immunology, haematology, clinical biochemistry, genetics and histopathology. It has over 11,000 members who are senior staff in hospital laboratories, universities and industry, worldwide. [www.rcpath.org](http://www.rcpath.org)
- For more information about pathology download [What is Pathology](#)
- National Pathology Week will be held from 3-9 November. For information about events held throughout the UK, visit: <http://www.ilovepathology.org/events>
- The College will be hosting the first [International Pathology Day](#) on 5 November.
- The Hunterian Museum is based at The Royal College of Surgeons in London. Visit: <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums/hunterian>
- Pathology Diagnostics Ltd is an independent GCLP accredited histopathology research organisation delivering tissue laboratory & diagnostics services to industry <http://www.pathologydiagnostics.com/>
- Radio Cambridge 105 - <http://cambridge105.fm/>