



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – March 2026



President's Message

World Events and the impact on pathology

In the last month we have of course seen further escalation in the conflict impacting the middle east.

As a charitable body, we do not comment or take sides in such conflicts but we can of course reflect on the difficulties faced by many of our members and their families who may have been affected. We are all nevertheless indirectly influenced of course, given the effect on the world markets and what this means for our economy. Supply chains are also at risk and the rising cost of fuel and even the potential for energy shortages will just further endanger business as usual.

We may indeed need to consider activating contingency plans in order to keep our services running or reduce what we can do. 'Critical Demand Optimisation', where we ration our services down to a level way beyond what our services need, may be inevitable, and some forward planning or thinking around this would be sensible.

New President elect

I am delighted that Professor Sarah Coupland has been elected as president elect. She will take over from me, as president, at the end of November at the AGM. In the meantime, I will be working closely with Sarah to ensure a smooth handover. I must also express my gratitude to the other four candidates who stood for election.

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There will of course be more elections in the next few months to replace 5 of our honorary officers, as well as many important positions going out to advert, including clinical directors, committee chairs, exam panel chairs and other roles. I urge every Fellow to consider stepping up and taking one of these roles – as a College we need our membership's support and this represents a real opportunity to make a difference.

The Carter Review

I have been invited to the final meeting of the Partner Board for the Carter Review of Pathology Services next month. It is likely that we will see the review being published shortly after that. I will ensure that we feed back to members the contents of the review and our College's perspective as soon as we are allowed to – this may not be until it is published of course.

Visit to Brighton

I was able to spend the morning visiting the pathology department at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, following the invite from Dr John Laurie, Clinical Director, and a recent discussion with Alison Bennett MP, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex. I really appreciated the opportunity to tour the labs and a huge thanks for the great turnout by staff for a Q&A session, followed by a more in-depth discussion with departmental leads.

[The Health Service Journal Modernising Diagnostics Forum](#)

I spent a very useful day at this HSJ forum this month, which brought together pathologists, scientists, management, government and industry representatives for pivotal talks and panel discussions. Darren Traynor (the RCPATH Digital Pathology Lead) and myself were able to contribute to the sessions on digital pathology and workforce respectively.

A National Digital Pathology Platform

This is recognised as a long-term goal that would bring many benefits to pathology and healthcare, however the relative lack of investment and a workforce with enough functionality and turning space limits the feasibility of this developing anytime soon. I spent a day recently with Amazon Web Services participating in a workshop, along with other pathology leaders, NHSE pathology team and digital champions, to explore what was needed and to identify the benefits that this would bring. While it needs to be acknowledged that AWS has the necessary infrastructure, technical expertise and

maybe funding to support this venture, we need to clearly ensure that the profession and the College has a say in directing the future set up, and that any trade off is ethical, fair and worth it. The College looks forwards to future discussions with AWS on this and also with existing expertise from across the UK.

Technical EQA oversight

I am pleased to announce that having stepped down our EQA oversight functions in January due to lack of funding, unclear escalation route and concerns over indemnity and reliance on the volunteer model, we have been able to secure three years of funding from NHS England to re-establish a service in the near future.

We will be aiming to build a more appropriate array of specialist panels, working in partnership with IBMS and LabMed, and joining up with emerging quality and safety groups across the NHS/Department of Health and Social Care. This will also include appropriate representation from the devolved nations. We will provide more details on this in the near future.

2026 Workforce Census – now live

This is your opportunity to tell us what matters. Your insights and experiences are invaluable in helping us advocate for a pathology workforce that is equipped with the right resources and support to deliver the highest quality of care for patients.

The census has been re-developed so that you will only see the questions that are relevant to you. We estimate that it will take you between 10-25 minutes to complete.

Please check your inbox for an email from email@boxsurvey.net containing your unique survey invitation, and click the link provided to begin.

Our advocacy is at its strongest when it is guided by your experience which is why we strongly encourage you to complete the census. For more information visit [Workforce Census 2026](#).

Meetings and events

Torsten Bell MP visits Singleton Hospital laboratory, Swansea Bay University Health Board
Accompanied by Professor Angharad Davies, RCPATH Clinical Director of Publishing and

Engagement, Torsten Bell MP for Swansea West had the opportunity to meet staff working across cellular pathology, blood sciences and the microbiology department. The visit ended with a tour of the immunohistochemistry department. [You can read more about the visit on the College website.](#)

Prostate cancer APPG meeting

Professor Dan Berney and Dr Luis Beltran attended the All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting Health in Westminster. The meeting focussed on the government's Men's Health Strategy and support for men.

You can read the College's [response](#) to the strategy which we submitted last year.

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

Room availability at the College

We're always pleased to welcome members who use the College for meetings, training and committee work. Members receive a 20% discount on room hire, and our high-quality spaces support a wide range of activities.

However, room availability can be limited. Our rooms are needed for exams, committees, training and external events, which provide valuable income to help keep membership fees low.

If you are planning a meeting or training session, please book as early as possible. Rooms can be reserved up to two years in advance, and early booking helps us balance member needs with other essential uses of the building. You can book at sales@eventsatno6.com

We continue to review how our spaces are used to ensure we support members while generating the income needed to sustain the College. Thank you for your support — we look forward to welcoming you

Labs Tests Online launches a redesigned website

Lab Tests Online helps patients and the public find trusted information about laboratory tests more easily and better understand what their results may mean. All content on the site is written, reviewed and updated by subject experts in laboratory medicine and is professionally peer reviewed.

The site's design, structure and user experience has been transformed introducing a cleaner layout, simplified navigation and improved accessibility.

The College was pleased to support the redevelopment of the site which was made possible through a partnership between the College, LabMed, the Institute of Biomedical Science. [Lab Tests Online](#).

[2026 undergraduate and foundation essay competitions](#)

The 2026 undergraduate and foundation essay competitions are now open. The Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize and the Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize offer UK undergraduates and foundation doctors the chance to take an in-depth look at a particular aspect of pathology through a written piece. This year the competitions focus on the importance of pathology tests to patients.

The winner of each competition will be awarded £250. They will also have their essay published on our website and in the College magazine, *The Bulletin*, and will be presented with a certificate at an RCPATH event. The closing date for the Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize is 6 April and the closing date for the Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize is 11 May. Find out more, including terms and conditions and how to enter, on [our website](#). Please encourage undergraduates and foundation doctors you know to enter.

[International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting \(ICCR\) – digestive tract dataset consultations](#)

The ICCR invites you to review the draft datasets listed below. Access the documents and consultation at the [ICCR Datasets Under Consultation page](#) and submit your comments by Friday 24 April 2025.

- Carcinoma of the appendix
- Carcinoma of the gallbladder
- Liver metastasis resection
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the anus – local excision specimen
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the anus – abdominoperineal excision specimen

RCPATH Industry Leaders' Forum – 27 April

The RCPATH will deliver its second in-person Industry Leaders' Forum event on 27 April at the College in London. The event will provide a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange, sharing insights, and development of new partnerships between industry and the profession. It forms a significant part of our corporate engagement strategy, which forges connection and collaboration between industry and our members to improve patient care. The event programme will be confirmed soon.

We are inviting expressions of interest from Fellows wishing to attend this event. We will also be inviting senior stakeholders from medical innovation and diagnostics industries, government representatives, and policy makers to this event. For further information and/or to express an interest in attending please contact the RCPATH Corporate and Public Engagement Manager, [Penny Fletcher](#).

Your 2025/2026 CPD Returns – Get Ready!

Just a gentle reminder that our CPD year ends in March. Submitting your return will help us prepare your CPD statement, designed to support your [revalidation](#) with evidence of your continuing professional development. [Submit your CPD return here when you're ready](#).

If you have any questions or need help with the process, our Member Engagement and Support Team is here to help. 020 7451 6720. cpd@rcpath.org

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal continues to grow, with 7,000 resources across a wide range of specialties. This month we have been spotlighting lung histopathology cases and a lecture on prostate cancer available on the Portal.

As content develops, we are keen to welcome trainees who would like to get involved, whether by contributing materials or helping to review existing resources, the team are available to support anyone interested in sharing their expertise.

This growth has been matched by increasing engagement, with the Portal passing 7,200 users and content launches at more than 475,000. As activity increases, we would also like to remind users that CPD self-accreditation is available for eligible learning undertaken through the Portal.

To help users and contributors make the most of the platform, the team runs monthly drop-in sessions on the last Thursday of every month from 2:30pm to 3:30pm, providing an opportunity to explore features, ask questions, or discuss ideas for new content. Details can be found on the College's event calendar and social media channels.

If you would like to get involved, learn more, or host material of your own, please contact the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org, and visit the College website for further information and sign-up details.

Get involved at the College

Veterinary pathology trainee registration

Trainees in anatomic veterinary pathology, clinical veterinary pathology and veterinary microbiology are eligible to register with the Royal College of Pathologists for an annual fee of £54. Registration provides access to the various veterinary pathology curricula, the MyRCPath portal with member resources and committee documentation, quarterly Bulletins, an annual veterinary pathology newsletter, access to the Pathology Portal, reduced rates for scientific meetings and CPD events, and additional benefits such as TOTUM PRO eligibility.

The registration process requires completion of a form with evidence of training appointment, followed by online payment within 14 days. The College operates a '1 fee only' policy whereby trainees pay either the registration fee or diplomate/fellowship fee depending on their status, with special provisions available for circumstances such as maternity leave. It should be noted that the diplomate and fellowship fees supersede the trainee registration fee. This registration is intended to offer valuable professional resources and networking opportunities throughout veterinary pathology training. Veterinary pathology trainees can register [here](#). For registration queries, contact the Training Co-ordinator at training@rcpath.org

College courses and events

Veterinary Pathology Spring webinar series

The RCPath has a long and distinguished history in veterinary pathology. Membership and Fellowship examinations in veterinary pathology have been conducted since the 1970s. Today, Fellowship of the RCPath continues to carry significant professional recognition, with Fellows acknowledged as specialists by both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI).

We are delighted to present the RCPath Veterinary Pathology Spring Webinar Series, a programme designed to engage and educate pathologists, residents, specialists, veterinary surgeons, and undergraduate students across all specialties. The series will feature sessions on anatomical pathology, clinical pathology, and microbiology, covering topics of current relevance and interest. These include large animal disease surveillance, with a focus on emerging viral threats such as Bluetongue virus, wildlife forensic pathology, lipases, immunohistochemistry and pathology findings associated with telemetry devices and therapeutic oligonucleotides. The series will conclude with a dedicated discussion of the RCPath Fellowship examinations in veterinary pathology/microbiology, offering guidance and insight for those considering this qualification.

[Tuesday, 14 April 2026](#)

Topic: Immunohistochemistry in Veterinary Medicine

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Tuesday, 21 April 2026](#)

Topic: Wildlife Forensic Pathology

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Tuesday, 28 April 2026](#)

Pathology findings associated with therapeutic oligonucleotides and Pathology Findings Associated with Telemetry Devices in Beagles.

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Autopsy webinar series – Cervical spine injury](#)

Wednesday, 22 April 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Autopsy webinar series: Cognita a mortuis 2026](#)

Wednesday, 20 May 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The autopsy has revealed expected and unexpected information that might help preserve the health and life of future patients ever since the time it became a routine tool. However, we have never made more than sporadic use of the information it generates. Where have we gone wrong?

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

[Autopsy webinar series – Cervical spine injury](#)

Wednesday, 22 April 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Medical Examiner Annual Conference – Virtual Event](#)

Wednesday, 13 May 2026

CPD credits: tbc

The annual conference is an opportunity for those working in and with the medical examiner service to hear updates from key stakeholders and learn more about topical issues. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions. The programme is still being finalised and will be published when available.

Representatives from the following organisations are expected to participate:

- Royal College of Pathologists
- NHS England
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Office for National Statistics

Confirmed speakers

- Dr Huw Twamley, National Medical Examiner
- Dr Helen Vernon, Chief Executive, NHS Resolution
- Professor David Fishwick, Chief Medical Adviser, Health and Safety Executive
- Dr Vicky Price, President, Society for Acute Medicine
- William Vineall, Director of NHS Quality, Safety and Investigations
- Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety in England

The conference will be on Zoom and will not be recorded.

Early bird rate available until 1 April 2026.

[Autopsy webinar series – Post-operative deaths](#)

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars series

Following some excellent sessions on medical liver disease in 2025, and based on feedback received from delegates, the UK Liver Pathology Group in conjunction with the Royal College of Pathologists are pleased to announce the continuation of our virtual liver pathology bitesize series. Given the variability in exposure to liver pathology during training across the UK, some of the cases discussed will include FRCPath style cases, but also cover entities which pathologists may come across regularly as part of their working practice. There are six webinars which take place during 2026, which this year will be focussing on lesional liver pathology, and will aim to return to medical liver disease in 2027.

Each 1 hour webinar session will be hosted by the UKLPG resident representatives, and presented by an expert in the field of liver pathology. We plan to cover a different theme in each session, including case based discussions in addition to hints and tips in how to approach the cases. There will also be the opportunity for delegates to pose questions to the speakers via the Q&A function. Where possible, we aim to provide attendees with the opportunity to view the digital slides before each session.

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Vascular lesions of the liver](#)

Wednesday, 6 May 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Frozen sections in Liver Pathology](#)

Wednesday, 1 July 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Cholangiocarcinoma](#)

Wednesday, 2 September 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Hepatic cysts](#)

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 12:30pm 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 - In person](#)

Thursday, 7 May 2026

CPD credits: 6

[Medical Examiner Training - Virtual](#)

Wednesday, 23 September 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 Examiners Officer \(Virtual training\)](#)

Wednesday, 29 April 2026

CPD credits: 6

Regional news

SAVE THE DATE!

RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2026

This is a free and in-person only event.

- **Date:** Tuesday 20 October 2025
- **Venue:** Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB
- **Time:** 09:30 – 14:00 (including lunch, networking opportunities and followed by Trainee Forum with the College President).
- Further details to follow.

New publications

New publications

In the latest [Dr Chris Tiplady blog](#), he discusses how he and his colleague, Mr Michael Atkinson at the University of Sunderland, teach students how to move on from patient

encounters, how to cope, how to balance all that uncertainty and be able to move on to the next patient or even just go home to the family.

In the [third blog](#) of our member spotlight series by the College's Undergraduate and Foundation Lead Dr Matthew Clarke, he talks about life as a new consultant.

[G170: Guidelines on autopsy practice Autopsy for suspected acute anaphylaxis \(including anaphylactic shock and anaphylactic asthma\)](#)

New consultations

- [Sustainable pathology practice – A toolkit for climate-resilient diagnostics and clinical practice](#). The College has published a toolkit providing guidance for embedding sustainability into everyday pathology practice.
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of endometrial cancer \(closes 18 March 2026\)](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Investigation of recreational diving deaths \(closes 26 March 2026\)](#)

Other events of interest

13-16 April 2026

[Microbiology Society Annual Conference 2026](#)

13-14 April 2026

[13th Annual Oxford Bone Infection Conference](#)

15 April 2026

[Addressing healthcare inequalities in IPC \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

19-21 April 2026

[British Society for Haematology Annual Scientific Meeting 2026](#)

20-21 April 2026

[Annual Scientific Meeting 2026 - Healthcare - It's a Risky Business](#)

27-28 April 2026

[British Association of Urological Pathology \(BAUP\) Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

28 April 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Hot Topics Webinar Series 2026](#)

28 April-01 May 2026

[London Gastrointestinal \(GI\) pathology update 2026](#)

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](#).

