



## **Newsletter from Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – August 2021**

### **President's Message of the Month**

#### **Integrated Care Systems and regional engagement Integrated Care Systems and regional engagement**

We have sent letters to the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in England to introduce the College's Regional Representatives and to explore opportunities to promote pathology engagement and input into ICS meetings.

We have received a number of positive responses outlining opportunities for engagement and collaboration. This is an important first step, working directly with ICSs is a great opportunity for pathology services.

#### **Promoting research – Trainees' Research Medal Awards 2021**

A key component of the College mission is to promote study, research and innovation in pathology and disseminate the results. One way we do this is by recognising and rewarding the best of the excellent science that College trainees publish, encouraging them in their research careers.

Our Trainees' Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training

Applications are invited from trainees who are first author or first joint author on single original research papers published between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

Please encourage any trainees who you think could be eligible to submit their research by Friday 3 September.

#### **Patient Safety Awareness Week 2021**

This year's week will run from 17 – 23 September. Organised to raise awareness of patient safety to help improve pathology services, the week will feature the release of an infographic, podcasts, videos, Patient Safety Bulletins and an essay competition.

#### **On the agenda**

- We were pleased to see that the College's recommendations on the role of medical examiners in investigating baby deaths were noted in the report from the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee Expert Panel on

maternity services in England. Our submission to the inquiry was also published.

- We welcomed the Elective Care Framework - Restart, Recovery and Design published by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and Robin Swann MLA, Minister of Health. The Elective Care Framework proposes a £700m investment over five years and sets out a five-year plan to reduce the backlog of patients currently waiting for assessment and treatment. It promises investment in pathology and digital pathology rollout, which should help, but there are still concerns about the surge in demand for pathology services.
- It was welcome to see a case study from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust featured in the NHSX cancer digital playbook, Futureproofing neuropathology diagnosis with digital pathology imaging.
- The College fully supported the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' (AoMRC) statement that caution will still be required after the lifting of restrictions. Medical royal colleges, as the professional voice of doctors, believe that continuing to be cautious is the right thing to do for both individuals and organisations.
- Dr Bernie Croal, Chair of the Scotland Regional Council, received a welcome letter from the Scottish Government recognising the vital contribution laboratory professionals have made in these unprecedented circumstances. This was in response to a letter sent to the new Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf.

### **Dame Clare Marx**

I, and everyone at the College, was extremely saddened to hear the news that Dame Clare is stepping down from the GMC following a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Dame Clare has always been a very good friend to pathology, pathologists and our College.

I, and everyone at RCPATH, wish her the very best.

**Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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### **WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

### **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **Visit to Pillar 2 Sars-Cov-2 RNA Mass Testing Lighthouse Laboratory – Last few places remaining**

The College is collaborating with NHS Test and Trace to offer a unique opportunity to tour Pillar 2 SARS-CoV-2 RNA mass Lighthouse Laboratories in the UK for medical and scientist trainees, biomedical scientists, consultants, and specialty and associate specialist (SAS) doctors in microbiology and virology. The free tours are taking place on Friday 20 and Friday 27 August between 2 and 4pm at laboratories in Milton Keynes, Glasgow, Leamington Spa, Belfast, Newport, Newcastle, London and Plymouth. Places are limited so please book your tour as soon as possible. Further information and booking is available via the [College website](#).

### **College Diamond Jubilee – 2022**

The College will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in 2022. Plans are underway for a year-long programme of activities to highlight the role of pathology and the College with events for members, their families, friends and colleagues, policymakers and the wider public. The College's 60th birthday is on 21 June 2022 and an Open Day will take place in London, to which we have invited HRH the Queen our patron and which will include a live-streamed lecture by Professor Jonathan Van Tam. There will be events in the devolved nations, regional events and online activities, so watch this space!

### **Diamond Jubilee event – Calling all cyclists! Dates announced.**

As part of the celebrations next year, the College is organising both a bespoke physical Lands' End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle ride and virtual cycling challenges!

The dates are 10 and 21 September 2022 for the physical ride. We need to know numbers for the physical ride in advance. If you are interested, please contact Professor Sarah Coupland, asap on [s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk)

Please note that virtual challenges are also being organised throughout next year, including a virtual LEJOG, West Wales Walk, and others. Stay tuned!

### **The Bulletin**

The Bulletin's College Diamond Jubilee issues will have a different format to our usual issues and we are hoping to feature all our specialties through an array of articles. If you have a suggestion for an article related to your specialty, please get in touch with us by emailing [Publishing@rcpath.org](mailto:Publishing@rcpath.org)

### **Two new members of the Working Group on Cancer Services**

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services is seeking to recruit two new cellular pathology members who have a broad knowledge base in cellular pathology reporting and are 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 Tuesday 31 August 2021.

### **Diagnostic cytopathology in the UK – a survey of cytopathology practice**

The College has published *Diagnostic cytopathology in the UK – a survey of cytopathology practice*. The survey found 83% of pathologists reporting on cytology samples are general cellular pathologists. This is the first survey of its kind and the results will act as the baseline for future cytopathology data collections. Read the [report](#) now. Questions? Please contact [Fiona.addiscott@rcpath.org](mailto:Fiona.addiscott@rcpath.org)

### **2021 curricula**

We are pleased to announce that all our new GMC approved 2021 curricula for trainees who are starting specialty training from August 2021 are now on the [College website](#).

### **RCPATH Foundation Fellowships – applications close end of August**

The College will be making a number of Foundation Fellowships available again this year. The Foundation Fellowship scheme is open to Foundation doctors who secure a post rotating through any pathology specialty – this includes histopathology, haematology, medical microbiology and infectious diseases or any other specialty represented by the College. Foundation doctors undertaking longitudinal integrated foundation training (LIFT) in pathology are also eligible to apply.

The closing date is 31 August 2021 and more information can be found on the [College website](#). If your department has placements for Foundation doctors please do encourage them to apply.

### **GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE**

We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

### **Are you a UK consultant who is dual accredited in Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases?**

Most consultant job descriptions that the College's Workforce Department currently endorse, and posts that come to interview, are for joint Medical Microbiology (MM) and Infectious Diseases (ID).

The department is seeking to recruit new assessors who are dual accredited in both MM and ID.

The College attaches great importance to the duties of its assessors on interview panels (a.k.a. advisory appointment committees/AACs). College assessors act as our spokesperson regarding the adequacy of the candidates' suitability for the post.

They also play a vital role in helping us uphold the highest standards of pathological practice. The College assessor is often the only statutory external influence on an AAC.

More information on the role and an application form are available on the [College website](#). If you have questions, please contact Reshma Patel on 020 7451 6725 or [reshma.patel@rcpath.org](mailto:reshma.patel@rcpath.org) / [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org)

### **Nominations open for Asst Registrar, Wales Regional Chair and NI Regional Chair**

The nomination phase for the election of three of the college's trustees opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

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

These roles offer the opportunity to contribute at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of care that patients receive.

Information on the three roles can be found on the following links:

- [Assistant Registrar](#)
- [Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair](#)
- [Wales Regional Council Chair](#)

Nominations will be accepted up to midday on 6 September 2021.

## **REGIONAL SYMPOSIA**

### **Scotland Symposium 2021 – Friday 8 October**

Please save the date for this event. Further information will follow in the following months.

### **Regional surgeries in England**

The College's Regional Representatives on the College Council are introducing new and innovative ways to hear from members and understand the views across the region that they represent.

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. The surgeries have been planned to be held in the time before College Council meets in order to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

The dates for surgeries are as follows:

- **South of England surgery:** 17 August, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi, English Regional Representative of College Council (South)*
- **North of England surgery:** 19 August, 12.30–2pm – *led by Dr Ali Robb, English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)*
- **Midland and East of England surgery:** date and time to be confirmed – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali, English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)*

## **PROMOTING PATHOLOGY**

### **Get creative with our Art of Pathology Competition**

We're inviting entrants of all ages from the UK and abroad to interpret this year's theme, *All Together Now*, using any artistic medium of choice. The winner from each of the three age categories will receive £50 and have their artwork published online and in the *Bulletin* magazine. The closing date is 27 August. Find out more and have a look at [last year's winning entries](#).

### **Help spread the word about our Science Communication Prize**

If you know any pathology trainees or undergraduates who have shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year, please encourage them to apply for this prize by 17 September 2021. The winner will receive £200 and be invited to receive the award at a College event. [Find out more](#).

### **Video messages about COVID-19 vaccines**

The College public engagement team has worked with eight College members to develop a [series of video messages](#) to help dispel myths and misconceptions and address issues about COVID-19 vaccines.

As well as videos in English, volunteers also recorded video messages in one or more other languages including Arabic, Hindi, Tamil and Spanish. The videos are being disseminated to the relevant communities to support efforts to increase vaccine uptake. Please share the [playlist link](#), or links to individual videos, with any contacts or communities you are in touch with who might benefit from watching these messages. We would like to thank all of the RCPATH members who volunteered so much of their time to put these videos together. Find out more in our [recent news post](#).

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

### **July Bulletin**

The [July 2021 issue of the Bulletin](#), which takes an in-depth look at the health of mothers and children, exploring the issues surrounding and advances in pre- and perinatal care, including investigation of maternal safety incidents and screening of inherited disorders.

### **Best Practice Standards for the delivery of NHS infection services in the UK**

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **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.

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 session – Virtual Training**

Wednesday 29 September 2021

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 examiner officer training session – Virtual Training**

**Friday 24 September 2021**  
**CPD credits: 6**

**For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) or on 020 7451 6700.**

## **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **Research into feelings of shame as result of experiencing the GMC disciplinary process**

Researchers at the University of Birmingham and University of Exeter are interested in experiences of doctors who have felt shame or other negative or self-conscious emotions as a result of experiencing the GMC disciplinary process. The researchers are looking to see how these feelings, emotions, and experiences influence the delivery, experience, and maintenance of medical care.

The research is funded by the Wellcome Trust (217879/Z/19/Z) and has ethical approval from the Health Research Authority.

If you are a doctor based in England, the researchers would like to hear about the incident(s), your feelings and how you processed this. Your participation in the research will involve an interview with a member of the project team that will last about an hour. To register your interest in taking part contact Dr Stephen Williams at [s.j.williams@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.williams@bham.ac.uk).

### **Survey on the use of automatic identification and data capture technologies in the NHS**

NHSX is exploring the impact of using automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) technologies such as RFID (radio-frequency identification) and RTLS (real-time location system) in health and care. These technologies can be used to track assets and inventory and manage consumables across different areas to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs. NHSX is asking for your views by filling this [survey](#). Your responses will provide insight into your challenges and barriers and the support needed from NHSX to overcome them. [The survey is open until Monday 30 August 2021.](#)

### **NHSX launch three new digital playbooks**

NHSX's three new digital playbooks are designed to help clinical teams reimagine and redesign how patients receive care and integrate digital solutions into a patient's treatment journey.

The new playbooks focus on mental health, gastroenterology and cancer and are a series of free-to-access webpages on the [NHSX website](#).

The suite of playbooks, which covers eight of the largest outpatient specialties by volume, forms part of NHS England and NHS Improvement's work to redesign outpatient pathways. They support the NHS's commitment to reduce face-to-face outpatient appointments by up to a third over the next five years and make digitally-enabled primary and outpatient care mainstream across the NHS.

You can view the playbooks [here](#) and [get in touch](#) with your feedback. If there's a case study you would like to share, please email [dnhsx@nhsx.nhs.uk](mailto:dnhsx@nhsx.nhs.uk).

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

3–4 September 2021

Kings Preceptorship - Experience the Expertise - Infections of the Immunocompromised in 2021

4–9 September 2021

Live On-line Diagnostic Dermatopathology course

4–9 September 2021; then 2 hours every Saturday 10am–12pm up to 30+ hours

– For more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz: [hendmahfouz21@gmail.com](mailto:hendmahfouz21@gmail.com)

08 September 2021

The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day

10 September 2021

Post ISTH & ASH Headlines 2021

13–14 September 2021

BAUP Advanced Prostate Pathology Course – For more information, please email: [events@baup.org.uk](mailto:events@baup.org.uk)

15 September 2021

Pathology Grand Round Lecture, Sponsored by the Jean Shanks Foundation & The Pathological Society

17–18 September 2021

2021 General Pathology Conference

17 September 2021

St Mark's GI Histopathology workshop

17 September 2021

CAR-T Nursing & Allied Healthcare Professionals: Challenges and Considerations

27–28 September 2021

BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course

27–29 September 2021

Infection Prevention 2021

01 October 2021

The Wessex & Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Course - For more information, please email: [PDU.WX@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:PDU.WX@hee.nhs.uk)

13 November 2021–30 July 2022

30 Webinars in the EOE (Season2)

**RCPATH CPD-accredited online resources can be found [here](#).**





