



## RCPath President's newsletter – January 2026



### President's Message

#### [Nominations for the next President of the Royal College of Pathologists now open](#)

I will come to the end of my term in November, and nominations are now open for my successor. The role is a unique opportunity to provide visible leadership for the profession in the UK and internationally and to influence healthcare across the NHS.

While this is a serious role, with huge responsibility, it is also very rewarding and enjoyable. I would urge anyone who is interested to ensure they are fully appraised of the role/job description, the expectations, the effect on other activities and the likely challenges to be faced in the coming years. It is also vital, given its unpaid, volunteer status, that arrangements are discussed and agreed with employers (and families!) in advance, to ensure that enough time and support is provided to allow the role to be carried out as expected. I am also available to discuss the role, one to one, with any prospective candidate.

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The President is a member of the Trustee Board, working with Honorary Officers and College staff to lead the College's governance and strategic direction while championing pathology to improve patient care.

Consider whether you might stand and, most importantly, take part in the vote. A strong turnout helps ensure our next President has a clear mandate from across the fellowship.

Further elections will be held for other posts later in the year, including three of our Vice-Presidents – again very important and rewarding roles. While it helps to have previous experience at some level with the College, it is not mandatory. Full training and induction will be given, including ensuring role, job description and expectations are fully understood, with regular appraisal and support provided.

All of these roles can be taken up by any of you. What you need to make the role worthwhile is enthusiasm, effort and a will to contribute to College business and work collaboratively with other officers, directors, College staff and our wider membership.

Look out for an email from Civica with details on how to nominate. The closing date is noon Friday 6 February.

#### **RCPath Achievement Awards 2026**

The RCPath Achievement Awards are the perfect way for you to recognise and celebrate your colleagues for their contribution to pathology. Whether it's for innovative research, elevating educational standards or exceptional teamwork, do nominate your colleagues or team who have made a difference to patients.

Our awards are now open for nominations until midnight on Monday 9 March.

There are seven categories, 4 team awards and 3 individual awards and self-nominations are also encouraged.

#### **Team awards**

- Pathology services
- Sustainability Sponsored by [Source LDPath](#)
- Innovation, technology, or development of AI Sponsored by Roche Diagnostics
- Partnership working

#### **Individual awards**

- Leadership award
- Trainer of the year
- Trainee award

### **The Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill**

The Bill aims to prioritise UK medical graduates for foundation training places, and to prioritise UK medical graduates and other doctors with significant NHS experience for specialty training places.

We support the [Academy of Medical Royal College's](#) statement and welcome the proposed change to legislation which will allow the prioritisation of UK and Ireland trained medical graduates for training places. We are also pleased to see provisions in the Bill that will also prioritise internationally trained doctors with significant NHS experience.

#### **Engagement and advocacy**

##### **Proposal to close Cambridge University veterinary school**

Along with our colleagues at the [British Society of Veterinary Pathologists](#), we have written to the Vice Chancellor at the University of Cambridge to raise our profound concerns about the recommendation from the [Council of the](#)

[School of the Biological Sciences](#) to cease veterinary education at the University in 2032.

Our joint letter cites the far-reaching consequences that have the potential to affect human as well as animal health if the closure were to go ahead. In particular, the closure would reduce the pool of vets available to work in public health, government agencies and research institutions that protect human health, weakening the UK's capacity to respond to zoonotic diseases.

We have sent the letter to key parliamentarians. A number have responded echoing our concerns and expressing support for our position. You can read the full letter [here](#).

We were delighted that [Dame Chi Onwurah MP, Chair of the parliamentary Science, Innovation and Technology Committee](#), accepted our invitation to visit the laboratories at the Newcastle Royal Infirmary on 16 January.

Dame Chi Onwurah has long been interested in the work of the College and pathologists, having first attended events during National Pathology Week.

Professor Louise Jones, College Fellow, spoke at a [Westminster Health Forum](#) conference on Next steps for genomics in the UK. Keynote speakers included Dr Ellen Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, Genomics England and Professor Dame Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer for England.

Professor Adrian Bateman, Chair of our Cellular Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee and I joined Bowel Cancer UK's Parliamentary Reception where I met politicians, patients, clinicians and organisations and was able to highlight

the importance of pathology services in diagnosing and treating bowel cancer.



*Myself with Genevieve Edwards, Chief Executive at Bowel Cancer UK, Dr Alistair McKinlay, Trustee of Bowel Cancer UK and Professor Bateman.*

#### **His Majesty's New Year's Honours list**

I would like to offer my congratulations to the College members who were recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

It is a testament to their dedicated service to improve health, medicine, pathology practise and the NHS, for the benefit of patients and wider society.

You can see the list of members who have been recognised on the [College website.](#)

**Dr Bernie Croal**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
X: [@RCPath](#)

## In this issue:

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A PDF version of this newsletter is available at  
[RCPPath newsletters](#)

## Working for members

### **Fellowship Research Start-up Grant – Apply now!**

Applications are now open for the College Fellowship Research Start-up Grant, which provides support to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the beginning of their pathology research projects. The grant provides funding for up to one year, with awards of up to £1,000 for undergraduates and £4,000 for postgraduates, to help cover research costs such as consumables, equipment, and licences for specialist software.

These fellowships are open to projects in any pathology specialty, including medical, scientific, veterinary or oral pathology, and are designed to give applicants valuable research experience while providing a foundation for future applications.

Find out more and apply via the [College website](#).  
Deadline: Monday, 16 March 2026

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## **Joint Position Statement from the College and the British Association of Dermatopathologists: Opportunities for AI in Dermatopathology**

With the rapid advancements in AI technologies, there is growing interest in the role of AI to enhance aspects of dermatopathology.

The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) and the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPPath) believe that in order to prepare for a future with increased use of AI, it is essential for clinical-pathological correlation to be central to development and deployment of AI technologies, aimed to improve precision diagnosis and management of skin diseases including skin cancer.

The BAD and RCPPath have developed a joint position statement on the use of AI in dermatopathology and provide guidance on its integration into clinical practice.

### **The Pathology Portal**

The Pathology Portal is growing its library of more than 7,000 resources with new additions across a variety of specialties. The Pathology Portal team are working on several large projects which aim to fill gaps, as well as hosting content which is not available anywhere else.

There are currently over 6,700 users of the Pathology Portal, with content being accessed over 400,000 times. If you would like to learn more about the Pathology Portal, the team are running monthly drop-in sessions on the last Thursday of every month, keep an eye out on socials and the College's event calendar to be up to date.

Please feel free to get in touch with the team at [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org) and for more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#)!

### **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 MyRCPPath 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 supersedes 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](mailto:training@rcpath.org).

### **LEPT Refresher Sessions 2026**

To support Chemical Pathology and Cellular Pathology specialties ahead of the 2026 ARCPs, we're offering a series of **LEPT refresher sessions**:

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- **February 2026:** Four sessions designed for Chemical Pathology and Cellular Pathology trainees.
- **March 2026:** Four sessions tailored for those in SUPER roles, including training programme directors, ARCP panel chairs, and deanery/LETB administrative staff.

These sessions will provide practical LEPT guidance and updates to help you prepare confidently for the ARCP review process. Please log in to the LEPT system to view timetable of dates and joining details.

### **Apply for the Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prizes award**

If you are a trainee and would like to attend the Association for Laboratory Medicine's (LabMed) annual national scientific and education meeting event, you can apply for The Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prizes award.

In conjunction with LabMed, RCPPath offers 5 bursaries of up to £750 each for trainees attending the full 2-day LabMedUK25 conference. Applicants are accepted from medical or clinical scientist trainees on recognised UK training programmes, in either laboratory or clinical aspects of Clinical Biochemistry/Chemical Pathology. For further information and to apply, [click here](#). The deadline for applications is 6 March 2026.

### **The Health Foundation NHS Productivity Commission**

The College has called for a focus on pathology to boost NHS productivity in its [response to The Health Foundation's NHS Productivity Commission call for evidence](#). Our response highlighted pathology's central role in patient care and proposed 4 reforms to improve productivity.

Implementation of a national digital pathology strategy, improved interoperability of LIMS, diagnostic stewardship, and dedicated workforce planning were identified as key priority areas to help address bottlenecks, delays, and inefficiencies and offer opportunities for better patient outcomes and long-term cost savings. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to The Health Foundation's work in this area and will continue to engage with this process.

### **Proposed NHS Scotland merger**

The College responded to the [Scottish Government's consultation on the merger of NHS Education for Scotland \(NES\) and NHS National Services Scotland \(NSS\)](#) into a new organisation, NHS Delivery - proposed from 1 April 2026 with the aim to accelerate digital innovation and integrate workforce development across NHS Scotland.

Our response highlights key priorities that must be enabled to ensure success including dedicated pathology and laboratory service planning and clinical leadership at local, regional and national levels. The response further highlights risks of reduced influence and resources for education and training.

Ongoing engagement with royal medical colleges and education providers will be essential. The College will continue to monitor developments and has offered to provide advice to the Scottish government.

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## [Webinar: Developments in diagnosis and management of gram-negative bloodstream infections](#)

**12:30pm, Tuesday 3 February 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Join us for this free lunchtime webinar examining recent developments in the diagnosis and management of Gram-negative bloodstream infections, with a focus on the laboratory and clinical impact of rapid diagnostic technologies. Topics will include the epidemiology and burden of disease, real-world implementation of rapid genotypic and antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and integration into laboratory workflows, antimicrobial stewardship, and patient pathways. The speaker is Dr Lim Jones, Consultant Microbiologist at Public Health Wales. The chair is Dr Natasha Ratnaraja, a Consultant in Infection and Chair of the RCPPath Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Specialty Advisory Committee. The webinar is being delivered in partnership with [bioMérieux](#), and will last approximately 1 hour.

Book your place [here](#). This is the third webinar in this series; you can watch the first 2 webinars in the series [here](#).

## [Webinar: Cervical cancer screening and self-sampling](#)

**12:30pm, Tuesday 24 February 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Screening has been very successful at preventing cervical cancer in the UK and elsewhere. For many years, research focused on improving the screening test, but the landscape is changing and today's focus needs to be on increasing participation amongst those at risk. Self-sampling and other non-speculum techniques may have a role, but making an impact on cervical cancer rates is not easy and requires careful implementation. Join us for this lunchtime webinar to hear from Professor Peter Sasieni, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Director of the Cancer Research UK Cancer Prevention Trials Unit at QMUL, and Athena Lamnisos, CEO of The Eve Appeal.

The webinar is being delivered in partnership with [Roche Diagnostics](#), and will last approximately 1 hour.

Book your place [here](#). This is the third webinar in this series, you can watch the first 2 webinars in the series [here](#).

## [Pathology careers webinar - Red cell haematology](#)

**6pm, Monday 26 January 2026**

This online event, aimed at undergraduates and foundation doctors, will shine a spotlight on careers in red cell haematology. Our speakers are consultant Dr Emma Drasar and senior specialty registrar Dr Chloe Merrion.

## [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 RCPPath 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.

### **National Pathology Week - working with the Pathology Alliance**

We were delighted to collaborate with the Pathology Alliance to deliver an online event aimed at students for National Pathology Week (NPW) 2025. You can watch the videos created from the 19 short talks delivered at this event [here](#). Dame Suzy Lishman hosted this fast-paced and engaging event attracted over 300 attendees on the day. This was the second year we ran a joint online NPW event with the Pathology Alliance, and we plan to continue this successful collaboration for [NPW 2026](#) – if you have any suggestions or questions about this year's event, please do get in touch on [publicengagement@rcpath.org](mailto:publicengagement@rcpath.org).

## **Get involved in the College**

### **Join the Trainees' Advisory Committee**

We are inviting applications from trainees interested in joining the Trainees' Advisory Committee, which represents all specialties and College regions. TAC Members play an active role by attending committee meetings, participating in discussions, and ensuring trainees' views are shared within their specialty. This is a valuable opportunity to influence how your specialty is organised, network with peers, contribute to College activities, and support your professional development. Roles currently available include:

- Immunology Trainee Representative
- Toxicology Trainee Representative
- Veterinary Microbiology Pathology Trainee Representative

Successful applicants will be expected to attend four Trainees' Advisory Committee meetings each year and two Specialty Advisory Committee meetings, providing updates on behalf of their specialty. Applications must be submitted using the [nomination form](#) by 13 February 2026.

## International news

### **The College is proud to support the World Health Expo (WHX) Labs this February**

Dr Noha El Sakka, Vice President for Communications, will represent the College by delivering a keynote presentation titled Tackling AMR: A One Health Approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship. World Health Expo (WHX) Labs, held in Dubai from 10 – 13 February, brings together the global healthcare and laboratory community for four days of scientific exchange, innovation, and collaboration.

The Congress programme includes:

- 200+ sessions
- 150+ speakers

If you are planning to visit the WHX Labs Congress, you can view the programme agenda, your complete digital guide to all Congress activities. Visit the WHX Labs website for [further information](#).

### **Join our webinar series on 'Managing lower respiratory tract infections'**

We are delivering a webinar series on 'Managing lower respiratory tract infections'. This webinar series deals with a set of clinical conditions that are important for their varied clinical presentations, overlapping signs and symptoms and challenges in arriving at a proper diagnosis with imaging and microbiology. The impact that these challenges may have on the management and final outcomes in patients will be explored in the webinar series.

Diagnosis of lower respiratory infections and pneumonia, both in adults and children is a challenge, despite all the technological advances made in the clinical microbiology laboratory. There has been a surge in molecular diagnosis of respiratory infections that are popular among clinical departments. However, a film array panel or a multiplex PCR result on lower respiratory specimens that is not interpreted appropriately for the clinical situation could well prove counterproductive while managing a patient with respiratory infection.

#### **Webinar series programme**

- [Wednesday 4 February 2026 – Community acquired pneumonia and lower respiratory infections.](#)
- [Wednesday 11 February 2026 – Healthcare-associated lower respiratory tract infections.](#)
- [Wednesday 18 February 2026 – Infective airways disease.](#)
- [Wednesday 25 February 2026 – Complicated lower respiratory tract infections.](#)

If you're interested in attending the webinars, please click the links above to find out more. If you have any questions about the webinar series, please email [international@rcpath.org](mailto:international@rcpath.org).

## College Courses and events

### Autopsy webinar series – Coroner's court

**Wednesday, 28 January 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Attending Coroner's court can be a daunting experience for trainee pathologists and consultants, particularly as fewer inquests require a pathologist to attend, and pathologists may only be called to attend for more complicated cases. During this webinar we will hear from experienced Coroners, both medical and legal, experienced consultants and a trainee experience of Coroner's court. This webinar will help you understand the purpose and format of a Coroner's inquest, what the Coroner expects from a pathologist, how to give evidence and how to answer questions from other persons in the court.

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

### An introduction to health economics for clinicians

**Thursday, 29 January 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Health economics provides tools to understand how limited healthcare resources can be used most effectively to improve patient outcomes. This webinar will introduce key concepts in health economics and demonstrate their relevance to everyday clinical decision-making.

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

### Autopsy webinar series – Maternal death part 2

**Wednesday, 11 February 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Maternal deaths are rare (only 80-100pa across the UK) but their autopsies are not generally done well, due to unfamiliarity. These two lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of Direct & Indirect maternal deaths, and inform on how to perform the autopsies optimally.

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

### Autopsy webinar series – Neuropathology for the non-specialist

**Wednesday, 11 March 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This webinar will cover macroscopic and microscopic neuropathology which a general autopsy pathologist can diagnose, when to refer to a neuropathologist, and practical tips about what to refer.

**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.**

### **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 FRCPPath 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 - Benign hepatocellular lesions**

**Wednesday, 4 February 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

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

#### **Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Malignant hepatocellular lesions**

**Wednesday, 4 March 2026**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

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

#### **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)**

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**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 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

### **Other external events of interest**

28 January 2026

[Post American Society of Hematology \(ASH\) Highlights for Scotland](#)

28-30 January 2026

[127th Meeting of the British Neuropathological Society](#)

30 January 2026

Recent Advances and Reflections in Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia - For more information, please contact: [a.sale@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.sale@imperial.ac.uk)

30 January 2026

[51st Topics in Infection](#)

02-04 February 2026

[Leeds Lymphoma Course](#)

04 February 2026

[Basic Cervical Histopathology Course](#)

04-05 February 2026

[GARDP & BSAC Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference \(ACC2026\)](#)

07-08 February 2026

[5th Allergy and Clinical Immunology Conference](#)

10 February 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) New Agents Conference - Hope on the Horizon: Cutting-Edge Antimicrobials in Clinical Practice](#)

11 February 2026

[UCLH: Challenges in Myeloproliferative neoplasms \(MPN\)](#)

12 February 2026

[Scotland Myeloid Update Day](#)

27 February 2026

[2nd North of England Autoimmune CAR T Day](#)

Our full programme of CPD events can be found on the members' [website](#).

RCPPath CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)