



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – February 2026



President's Message

General Update

The start of the year is always busy for the College and for pathology, with many new projects and tasks that had been put back for the festive season now taking shape again. It was great to attend the first meeting of the **New Consultants Committee** on the 10 February, and it was clear that this group will be very useful at bridging the gap between the Trainees committee and the more senior consultant populated parts of the College.

Issues such as job planning, CPD for new consultants, workforce pressures and many new projects will hopefully be initiated by this group.

Similarly, I am looking forward to chairing the first **Digital Strategy Board**, a new committee that links to 4 other related committees: the RCPATH Informatics committee, the RCPATH Digital histopathology Committee, The British Society of Haematology Digital/AI Committee, and the LabMed UK AI & Informatics Special Interest Group. This will allow common themes and ideas to spread across disciplines and societies involved in this array of important innovations.

The College also continues to be heavily involved in important consultations and reviews including the Lord Carter review, the long-term workforce plan and developments around paediatric and perinatal pathology, with a look to developing contingency networks to better ensure the demand on the service

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can be best met by the existing capacity. These are all extremely important developments that will impact all of your professional lives, and so the strong voice of the College is vital.

I will be making the case for building a sustainable diagnostic workforce fit for the future at the Health Service Journal's [Modernising Diagnostics Forum](#) on 11 March. The forum provides a vital platform to collaborate with senior policymakers, clinical leads and system partners to explore how technology, workforce innovation, and next-generation facilities are reshaping outcomes across every level of care.

Finally, on behalf of the College, may I pass on a huge thanks to **Professor Mary Keogan**, who has just finished her term as Dean of the Faculty of Pathology; a faculty under the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Her term has been one of friendship, collegiality and professional collaboration with RCPATH, and we very much now look forward to working with the new Dean, Dr Shari Srinivasan.

[2026 Workforce Census](#)

In early March we are launching the College 2026 workforce census, and I encourage all invited members to take part. The census gives us the most up-to-date picture of the workforce, helps us track and benchmark change over time, and the insights feed directly into our [Workforce Strategy](#).

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

Using data from the 2025 census, we published 3 spotlight reports, 2 specialty specific reports and responded to several government consultations, as well as the Carter Review.

Our reports gained significant media attention, with the Paediatric and Perinatal report featured by several outlets, including the BBC, Times and Guardian, and had its findings presented at the All Party Parliamentary Group for Baby loss in December 2025.

Look out for a personalised link in early March. Please check your junk folder if you cannot find your invitation.

RCPATH Pathology Priorities - devolved nation elections

In May the people of Scotland and Wales will go to the polls to elect their respective governments.

We have published our pathology priorities for the incoming administrations.

There are common themes with the need for a robust workforce as the key priority to secure the long-term sustainability of pathology services across both nations.

Visit the website:

- [RCPATH Election Priorities for Scotland](#)
- [RCPATH Election Priorities for Wales.](#)

I was also able to host the second **Celtic Nations Summit** on the 3 February, with representatives from all three devolved nations including government posts, clinical services, and the relevant College trustees and senior staff. It was hugely informative comparing (mostly) and contrasting the strategies for pathology transformation, workforce and digital/LIMS innovations. We shall be publishing the meeting summary on the website soon.

National Cancer Plan for England

We welcomed the Government's release of the National Cancer Plan. This is a bold and ambitious plan that has the potential to deliver real benefits for patients.

Collectively we play a vital role in the timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer. We are also at the forefront of research and innovation, developing precise, tailored diagnostics and treatments — including cancer vaccines, immunotherapies and liquid biopsies, helping to accelerate access to targeted treatments for individual patients.

Without a sustainable diagnostic pathology workforce, patients may not receive the timely diagnoses they need, delaying treatment decisions and leading to poorer outcomes. Pathology can best support the priorities of the National Cancer Plan only with improved investment in the workforce, IT infrastructure, digital capability, and the laboratories in which we work.

Prostate cancer screening

We submitted our response to the [Government's consultation on prostate cancer screening](#). With prostate cancer being one of the most common

cancers affecting men globally, there is need for a robust approach to tackling a disease that affects 63,000+ men in the UK alone per year.

Improving prostate cancer outcomes without triggering a wave of overdiagnosis requires a nuanced approach. The College supports the introduction of smarter screening of high-risk groups, better biopsy strategies, and AI-augmented diagnosis. However, these need to be implemented with care.

Relations with Industry

We are very much looking forward to our next **Industry Leaders Forum** in April 2026, which will once again bring together leaders from across the pathology diagnostics industry, the pathology professions and College representatives. Our industry and corporate relations work over the past two years has been hugely successful at bringing forward key discussions on innovation, workforce, genomics, and also developing an array of webinars, symposiums and CPD activity, and helping the profession and industry advocate for better pathology services, together with a stronger voice.

I was pleased to join Ravi Chana, Executive Director, Diagnostics at **ABHI** and College VP for workforce and corporate engagement, Professor Peter Johnston for a discussion about recent reports that have indicated productivity declines in healthcare. We also discussed how the pathology profession and industry can work together to support implementation of new technologies and innovation in the NHS. You can watch the recording of this conversation [here](#).

Meetings and events

Dr David Bailey, Consultant Histopathologist and Clinical Lead for Cellular Pathology at Northwest Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, joined the [AXREM Digital Pathology Manifesto Launch](#) at the Houses of Parliament on 3 February. Dr Bailey gave a talk on the College's work to date on digital pathology, and on his experiences of digital pathology implementation in his own Trust.

Dr Rahul Deb, lead breast and gastrointestinal pathologist at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, also spoke at the event and highlighted how external organisations like RCPATH can help and support digital pathology implementation via guidelines, standards and education.

AXREM is the UK trade association for suppliers of diagnostic medical imaging, Radiotherapy, Healthcare IT, AI, and care equipment.

Vote for the Next President of the Royal College of Pathologists

I will come to the end of my term in November, and voting is now open to elect the next College President. I must sincerely thank all 5 candidates for stepping up and standing for this important but onerous role – I wish you all the best of luck.

This role offers a unique opportunity to provide visible leadership for our profession in the UK and internationally, and to influence healthcare across the NHS.

Please make sure your voice is heard by taking part in the vote. Your participation will help ensure our next President has a strong mandate from across the fellowship.

Look out for an email from Civica with full voting details. Voting opens on 20 February and closes on 20 March.

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

In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE
- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
- REGIONAL NEWS
- NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS
- NEW PUBLICATIONS
- OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST
- COLLEGE COURSES AND EVENTS

A PDF version of this newsletter is available at

[RCPATH newsletters](#)

Working for members

RCPATH Achievement Awards – Voting closes 9 March

The RCPATH Achievement Awards is your opportunity to recognise and celebrate your colleagues for their contribution to pathology.

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

Cellular pathology workforce survey - now live

Aligned with our intelligence gathering to support our [Workforce Strategy](#), the cellular pathology services survey is now live.

The last RCPATH workforce data collection for cellular pathology was in 2017, and the data is now outdated. This survey will collect up-to-date information to produce a refreshed Cellular Pathology workforce report, comparable with recent reports for [paediatric and perinatal pathology](#) and [immunology](#). The findings will support advocacy for workforce expansion and investment in digital pathology, in line with government workforce and cancer plans.

All cellular pathology service leads have been contacted to complete the survey on behalf of their service. If you are a lead and have not received your link, please contact workforceplanning@rcpath.org.

If you have your link but have not yet completed the survey, we encourage you to do so promptly. Given the scale of this exercise, it is unlikely to be repeated for some time. **The survey closes 6 March 2026.**

Thank you for your participation — your contribution is essential to strengthening the evidence base for the cellular pathology workforce.

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](#).

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.

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

Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal is growing its library of more than 7,000 resources with new additions across a variety of specialties, including hosting EQA's and teaching sessions. If you would like to use the Pathology Portal to host teaching content or run a session, we would love to talk to you about how we can help.

The Pathology Portal also passed another milestone with 7,000 users accessing content more than 450,000 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 between 2:30pm and 3:30pm, 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 and for more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#)!

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

[Bacterial and fungal infections: from the autopsy room to laboratory diagnosis](#)

Thursday, 5 March 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The webinar is jointly organised by the Royal College of Pathologists and the Study Group of Forensic and Postmortem Microbiology (ESGFOR) of ESCMID.

The audience will include Forensic Pathologists, Microbiologists, Virologists, autopsy pathologist (Paediatric and perinatal and general), infectious disease doctors and Medical Examiners among others.

Speakers: Donald Inverarity and Riina Richardson

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.

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 - 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)

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

Scotland webinar series: The role of Liquid Biopsy in the NHS Cancer Diagnostic Pathways in Scotland and Wales (1 CPD point self-credited)

Date: Friday 20 March 2026 at 1pm-2pm

This is a free webinar which will be held via Zoom.

The recent NHS's decision to incorporate liquid biopsy into its cancer diagnostic pathway is driven by several factors: speed and accessibility, delivering precision cancer medicine, patient comfort, cost efficiency and securing and enhancing the genomic diagnostic workforce for the future. In May 2025, NHS England took a ground-breaking step by commissioning large gene panel liquid biopsy testing through the NHSE Cancer Test Directory, making it routinely accessible to eligible patients with lung cancer and advanced breast cancer. This session will be exploring how liquid biopsy is being integrated into routine care through a national innovative programme in Scotland and Wales.

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 consultation

Dataset for the histopathological reporting of nodal excisions and neck dissection specimens (closes 3 March 2026)

New publications

The January Bulletin explores pathology solutions, highlighting the great work by pathologists to meet the healthcare challenges of our time. The issue includes articles on the Pathology Solutions event, held at the House of Commons during National Pathology Week, as well as an update on the College Workforce Strategy. You can also read about innovative solutions in cancer diagnostic pathways, haematopoietic cell transplant inequities and patient safety in blood transfusion.

G184 BPR Storage and retention of animal tissues and records

News from other organisations

Launch of new NHS Excellence Awards

The new NHS Excellence Awards are open, providing a national platform to recognise the outstanding work taking place across health and care, sharing the best of the NHS with the rest of the NHS.

Run by and for the NHS, they're free to enter and open to NHS organisations and providers working in partnership with the NHS to deliver local health and care services in England. There are ten award categories that reflect the priorities of the 10- Year Health Plan – from neighbourhood care and digital innovation, to sustainability, partnership working, quality improvement and more. Shortlisted regional champions will be announced in mid-April 2026 and national winners celebrated at an awards ceremony at NHS ConfedExpo on 10 June 2026. [Find out more. Entries close 5pm Friday 6 March 2026.](#)

Other events of interest

26 February 2026

[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Training Day - Antimicrobial resistance and stewardship](#)

27 February 2026

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

02 March 2026

[Molecular Pathology Study Day](#)

03 March 2026

[Approach to Cut-Up Study Day](#)

03-04 March 2026

[Society of Hematologic Oncology \(SOHO\) UK](#)

04 March 2026

[How to tackle water hygiene risks in hospitals \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

04-06 March 2026

[24th Annual British Thoracic Oncology Group \(BTOG\) Conference 2026](#)

05 March 2026

[Outbreaks training course](#)

06 March 2026

[Cervical Pathology: Pitfalls and Difficulties](#)

10 March 2026

[Whats New in Haematological Malignancies](#)

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](#).