



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – March 2023



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President's Message

[RCPATH Workforce Survey 2023](#)

Advocating for pathology and securing the level of investment and support it needs is one of our key priorities. We invest a significant level of resource into influencing politicians, the NHS and other stakeholders to achieve this but we can only do this successfully if we have the right evidence and data.

This survey will give us the core data we need to build a clear picture of workforce capacity and demand which, in turn, will inform the insights and intelligence that underpins our advocacy work.

The survey, which is being sent to Clinical Directors, will cover workload, staffing, vacancies, locum cover and the working environment.

If you have any queries regarding the survey, please contact workforce@rcpath.org

Spring Budget 2023

The College has taken every opportunity to make the case for NHS pension reform with parliamentarians and policymakers and we welcome the changes the government has announced.

Members have told us that the widely reported problems with the pension scheme led to some reducing their hours or taking early retirement.

The changes announced in the [Spring Budget](#) will, in part, help retain our skilled and experienced pathologists in the NHS.

Alongside our colleagues at the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and other medical royal colleges, restructuring the NHS pension scheme has been a core element of our advocacy work.

Junior doctors' industrial action

The College has published a [statement](#) on the industrial action by junior doctors in England. The decision to undertake industrial action is not one junior doctors have taken lightly. They care deeply about patient care and safety. While the College is not a trade union and cannot get involved in negotiating terms and conditions of employment, we do have a duty to maintain standards for the benefit of patients.

We welcome the news that parties have agreed to talks with the aim of coming to a mutually agreeable solution for the benefit of patients.

RCPATH Achievement Awards 2023 – Nominations Open

The RCPATH Achievement Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the hard work, innovation and enterprise of pathology teams. We will be awarding four RCPATH Achievement Awards to teams who have achieved above and beyond what would be expected in their usual course of their work.

We had some [fantastic winners last year](#) and I am really looking forward to seeing the nominations this time round.

Closing date for nominations – Monday 17 April.
To find out more and how to nominate visit: [RCPATH Achievement Awards](#).

New Fellows ceremony

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Fellows to the College as they received their certificates. This was such a unique occasion for the recipients, partners and families.

Engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders

All Party Parliamentary Group for Diagnostics

I'm delighted to say that the website for the [APPG for Diagnostics](#), a joint initiative with the Royal College of Radiologists, is now live and is linked to from [our College website](#). We are working on a shared programme of activities for the APPG and will be announcing these soon.

Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)

It was a privilege and honour to be bestowed with a Honorary Fellowship from the [IBMS](#).

The IBMS is a key College stakeholder and their members are an integral part of diagnostic workforce.

International Women's Day

The College was proud to support International Women's Day on 8 March.

[You can read about Dr Sudha Ranganathan](#), a Senior Consultant and Head of Transfusion Medicine, living in India, about creating more equitable opportunities for women in the country.

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A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at
[RCPATH newsletters](#)

Working for members

Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prize

The College administers the Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prizes, which award up to five bursary prizes of up to £750 for trainees to attend the [Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine's](#) annual focus meeting ([MedLab23](#)).

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. Details and application forms are available on the [College website](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 5 May 2023.

NQAAP Chairs needed for Chemical Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology

The College is recruiting a Chair for chemical pathology, microbiology, and immunology to join the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panels. For more information and details on how to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#). Completed applications should be returned by 5pm, Friday 21 April 2023.

[Pathology Portal](#)

The Pathology Portal has updates to support new formats in whole slide imaging, allowing a range of high-quality slides, including z-stacked images to be viewed and studied. Annotations and assessments on whole slide images have been added and work is taking place to upload around 100 haematology teaching slides. In other content, there has been a donation of [endoscopy videos](#) and several new editors have joined the clinical biochemistry team to help supply the content our trainees and biochemists have been requesting.

College Antimicrobial Resistance Webinar

Thank you to all who joined our Antimicrobial Resistance webinar in November 2022. The webinar recording is now available on the [College website](#).

Fellowship Research Start-Up Grant – deadline 11 April

The College Research Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the Fellowship Research Start-Up Grant, which provides support to postgraduate and undergraduate students at the beginning of their research project for up to one year. A maximum amount of £4,000 is awarded to postgraduate students and £1,000 to undergraduate students. The grants can support work in any discipline of medical or veterinary pathology and are not restricted to cellular pathology or histopathology.

Full details of the submission process, eligibility criteria and application form are available on the [website](#).

CPD Submission

Your CPD submission deadline for 2022/2023 is 30 September 2023. To submit your return please go to www.rcpath.org.

If you have any queries, please contact the Member Engagement and Support Team on 020 7451 6720 or by email at: cpd@rcpath.org.

LEPT instructional videos

There are a range of instructional videos as aids on how to navigate around the new LEPT system most effectively. From the [College website](#), LEPT users can log into the new LEPT system and

access the video links for trainees and non-trainees. The video links are in the Alerts section on the LEPT homepage.

The LEPT system – Chemical Pathology, Oral Maxillofacial Pathology Training and Cellular Pathology

Trainees in the above specialties who have moved from the old LEPT system to the new LEPT system will soon have their training items migrated across too. Watch this space!

Public Engagement

[Get planning for National Pathology Week \(NPW\) 2023](#)

This [NPW \(19 to 25 June\)](#), we're using the theme 'Pathologists and Patients' to highlight the key role our members and their teams play in patient care. Read our [news post](#) on the free support resources available to help you plan an event or activity. [Get in touch](#) with the public engagement team if you have any questions.

[Sign up for the next RCPATH Book Club – Monday 27 March, 6pm GMT](#)

Join author Professor Matthew Cobb and an expert panel to discuss the key themes and ideas explored in Matthew's book, *The Genetic Age: Our Perilous Quest to Edit Life*. [Sign up for free here](#).

[Apply for funding for your pathology-themed public events](#)

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers the chance to get up to £1,000 for your public events and activities. Apply using the form [on our website](#) by 1 July. Read about past recipients for inspiration [here](#).

Sign up a Pathology Ambassador

We're encouraging members to sign up as a 'Pathology Ambassador', which is part of the national [STEM Ambassador programme](#). The team at [STEM Learning](#) run the scheme, which involves a commitment of just one day of volunteering, to deliver a talk or activity aimed at 5-to-19-year-olds, per year. Register [here](#) and please include The Royal College of Pathologists as your professional membership affiliation so we can support you with our resources and volunteering opportunities. [Get in touch with Penny Fletcher](#) if you have any questions.

Get involved at the College

Apply to be a CESR Assessor

If you are interested in becoming involved with the College, becoming a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) assessor is a good way to do so. The role of a CESR assessor is to determine whether or not each CESR applicant meets the standard for their specialty and either recommend applicants for entry to the Specialist Register, or outline what more needs to be done to meet the standard. Training and ongoing support will be provided and CESR assessors can self-accredit for CPD points for each CESR evaluation they undertake.

A role description and further information is available on the [College website](#). If you would like to apply, please send an email outlining how you meet the person specification, along with an abbreviated CV, to training@rcpath.org by Monday 27 March.

Audit evaluators needed – Earn CPD credits

We are still searching for audit assessors in cellular pathology, clinical biochemistry, haematology and medical microbiology to assess if the audit criteria and standards are being met effectively. The assessment method comprises of tick-boxes and a brief text field, and it takes between 10 and 15 minutes. Each evaluation will earn you 1 CPD credit. For further information and to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#).

Regional news

Northern Ireland Symposium 2023 – (Save the date)

Symposium to be held on 25 May 2023 in Belfast.

Wales Symposium 2023 (Save the date)

Symposium to be held on 19th July 2023 – location to be confirmed.

New publications

[Members' Guide to the College](#)

The College's introductory guide explains the workings of the College to new trainees, Fellows, Council members, staff and Honorary Officers. To download the guide, [log into your MyRCPath account](#).

Guideline consultations

The following guidelines are open for consultation on the [College website](#). We welcome your feedback.

- Dataset for histopathological reporting of renal tumours in childhood (closes 27 March).
- Guidelines on autopsy practice: The decomposing cadaver (closes 28 March).
- Guidelines on autopsy practice: Deaths following known or suspected hanging (closes 28 March).

G101 Tissue pathways for non-neoplastic neuropathology specimens

A new edition has been published on the [College website](#).

College conferences and symposia

[Discover Pathology Events: Undergraduate Pathology Educational Lecture Series](#)

28 March 2023

This new series of evening virtual webinars is aimed at undergraduate medical students who wish to find out Royal College of Pathologists' specialties. The aim is to supplement students' learning in pathology, highlight what pathologists do, how we do it and how our work influences the care of patients. The events are free to attend and open to all healthcare professionals at an early stage of their learning.

Paediatric dermatopathology course – Hybrid Event

24 April 2023

6 CPD credits

We are excited to bring to you this in person paediatric dermatopathology course. This course is aimed at paediatric histopathologists, dermatopathologists and trainees who want to gain more insight into paediatric dermatopathology. It is a one-day course designed to learn from the experts about challenging cases in this field.

New Consultants' Day – Hybrid event

3 May 2023

6 CPD Credits

The New Consultants' Day is an event to help and support recently appointed consultants, or those who will soon be taking one up. It is appropriate for all pathology specialties and for both medically trained pathologists and clinical scientists.

You will hear from experienced consultants on a range of topics such as how to prepare a business case to secure resources, set up new services and how best to deal with complaints. Delegates will also learn more about appraisal, revalidation and job planning (parallel session for medically trained pathologists) and the experiences of consultant clinical scientists (parallel session for clinical scientists). This event is most suitable for those appointed to a consultant post within the last year, or who expect to be appointed to a consultant post within the next year.

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 26 mandatory 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 Face to Face Training – Virtual (rcpath.org)

Wednesday 26 April 2023

CPD credits: 6

Medical Examiner Training – In Person

Wednesday 14 June 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical Examiner training – Virtual

Thursday 21 September 2023

6 CPD credits

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

Thursday 20 April 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Thursday 29 June 2023

6 CPD credits

News from external organisations

Prostate Cancer UK Improvement Programmes

Prostate Cancer UK improvement programmes provide a supportive and empowering environment for clinicians at different stages of their career.

The 20-week improvement programme aims to help anyone working in and alongside the prostate cancer pathway to develop their leaderships skills to become changemakers and innovators. This includes clinicians as well as those who aren't clinically based but are working towards change or improvement in prostate cancer care. Application deadline: 11:59pm on Monday 27 March 2023.

If you have any questions about the Improvement programmes, please contact Kavita Tailor – Senior Healthcare Improvement Officer at: improvement@prostatecanceruk.org

Other external events of interest

New fee structure for CPD approval of national/international events

There is a new fee structure for the approval of national/international events for CPD purposes. Full details are available via the [CPD approval webpage](#).

22 March 2023

[Transforming Digital Pathology & AI: The Path Forward](#)

23 March 2023

[UK Myeloma Society Spring Day](#)

23–24 March 2023

[The 41st Annual Meeting of the British Association for Ophthalmic Pathology](#)

24 March 2023

[The old and the new - morphology and digital pathology in gynaecological pathology](#)

24–25 March 2023

[Mycology Fungal Update 2023](#)

03–04 April 2023

[CSC Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

25 April 2023

[An Introduction to Guideline Development](#)

03 May 2023

[27th London Lymphoma Forum](#)

09–10 May 2023

[British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Prostate Pathology Course](#)

10 May 2023

[Post EBMT Highlights Day](#)

12 May 2023

[ITP Update Day](#)

16–17 May 2023

[BIA 25th Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting and Spring Trainee Day](#)

17 May 2023

[BSBMTCT Scientific Day](#)

17 May 2023

[Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Conference 2023](#)

18–19 May 2023

[Edinburgh Haematopathology Tutorial](#)

01–02 June 2023

[London GI Pathology Update](#)

15–16 June 2023

[Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes Course 2023](#)

29 June 2023

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference](#)

20 July 2023

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass - online](#)

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

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

