



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – July 2026



Political and NHS England changes

With the new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, now in place, his ministerial team have been taking shape. Notably a new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Yvette Cooper, has been appointed. I will look to engage, on behalf of the College, with the new team either directly or via the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in the near future.

Professor Frankie Swords has also recently taken up post as National Medical Director, working across DHSC and NHS England. I have already highlighted some of the pathology specific issues to her and have a meeting set up next month to expand on that.

RCPATH Roche Diagnostics publishes joint white paper with Roche Diagnostics

We are delighted to share [Making every test count](#), a white paper published in collaboration with [Roche Diagnostics](#), one of our corporate members.

Launched one year on from the publication of [NHS England's 10 Year Plan for Health](#), this co-authored white paper presents examples of how diagnostics underpin the

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delivery of the three shifts outlined in the NHS 10 Year Plan.

It includes a foreword from [Alison Bennett MP](#), data from recent studies, patient case studies, and recommendations to government, NHS organisations and regulators. We are sharing the paper widely with key stakeholders including parliamentarians, government and trade associations. We would welcome support from members in further disseminating this important publication.

You can read more on the [College website](#).

Pathology Transformation Review 2026

We [responded](#) to the publication of the [Pathology Transformation Review](#), chaired by Lord Carter of Coles. The report provides an opportunity to focus on and highlight a service under tremendous pressure, as demand grows against a capacity that cannot keep up.

Our view is that the move towards more integrated services, better standardised interoperability, the rapid implementation of digital and AI implementation, improved workforce modelling and the drive to the level of efficiency and productivity needed, will not happen spontaneously.

Considerable investment will be needed up front, with a strong mandate for change ensuring standardisation and alignment of services can progress at the pace needed.

Paediatric and perinatal pathologist workforce crisis - media coverage

The parents of a fit and healthy 17-year-old boy who collapsed and died while playing sport at school have spoken to the media about their distress and pain of having to wait 10 months for the post-mortem report.

Raphaël Pryor son of Michael Pryor and Sabine Vandenbroucke, collapsed on the playing field at Eton College in Berkshire.

Sabine and Michael have joined the College in asking the Health Secretary to earmark 37 paediatric pathology training posts over the next five years to address the chronic shortage of consultants. Their story has been covered by The Times and [Daily Mail](#) among other media titles. College Speciality Advisory Chair, Dr Clair Evans was also quoted.

In 2025 the [College published a paediatric and perinatal workforce report](#).

The deficiencies in paediatric and perinatal pathology services have been apparent for many years. The mutual aid system and now the network formation, will help spread the load, although the pressures remain severe and the service is fragile. The framework to modify both criteria and components of post-mortem investigation to triage cases may also reduce demand on pathologists. We continue to offer the best service we can rather than the services we should.

In recent months, a further 4 paediatric and perinatal pathologists have, however, left their NHS posts. This is putting significant additional strain on the service and the ability to train. What is needed is a significant expansion of histopathology training posts, helping both the predicted histopathologist shortfall in the coming years and entry into paediatric pathology. The College continues to lobby hard for that to happen.

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
- 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/Specialist Society Medical Elective Small Grant Scheme

Applications for the 2026 RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective Small Grant Scheme are now open!

Introduced as part of the Royal College of Pathologists' Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2022, the RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective Small Grant Scheme supports undergraduate medical and veterinary students undertaking pathology-related elective projects.

Delivered in partnership with specialist societies across a range of pathology disciplines, the scheme offers grants of up to £1,000 to help students pursue clinical or research-based electives anywhere in the world.

For further details and application guidance, please visit the [College](#) website.

- Application deadline: Monday 5 October 2026
- Notification of successful applicants: November 2026

College response to the GMC legislative framework consultation

The College has responded to the [General Medical Council \(GMC\) legislative framework consultation](#), providing feedback on the draft General Medical Council Order 2026. The Order is intended to reform how the GMC regulates medical

practitioners, physician assistants and physician assistants in anaesthesia across the UK.

The response focuses on the importance of medical practitioners continuing to be represented within GMC governance structures and maintaining a formally-recognised role for medical royal colleges, including RCPATH, in continuing to determine the high standards of training and capability required to achieve specialist status.

The College remains committed to working collaboratively with the GMC and other stakeholders across the system to ensure that the framework strikes the right balance between flexibility and consistency, supporting high-quality, safe, and sustainable care in pathology.

National Pathology Week 2026 – logos now available

[National Pathology Week \(NPW\)](#) 2026 will run from 2 to 8 November with the theme 'Welcome to the Lab'. You can now download the NPW logo and social media assets from the [NPW webpage](#).

If you are planning an event (online or in person), please [register it on our website](#) so we can share it on our [public events calendar](#). We have a limited quantity of branded materials and information booklets available for event organisers to order for free – you can do this [here](#). If you have any questions or ideas about NPW, please contact the public engagement team on publicengagement@rcpath.org

Pathology Portal

Next month the Pathology Portal will be celebrating four years since going live, with lots of content across the College's channels looking back at the past year's achievements. As we head into the summer, the Learning Hub has published a new roadmap for development as the single NHS platform. The Pathology Portal team will be reviewing to see how we can continue to develop resources and learning opportunities. With more than half a million launches across almost 8,000 resources, this is a great time to sign up and see what the Pathology Portal has to offer.

If you've used the Pathology Portal, we would be grateful if you could take a moment to share your feedback [here](#).

If you have any questions or are interested in seeing how the Pathology Portal can be utilised to deliver teaching, please get in touch with the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org and the team will be happy to provide a demonstration. For more information, or to sign up, visit the [College website](#).

Get involved at the College

Nominations open for Wales Regional Council Chair

Nominations open at 12 noon on Friday, 17 July for Chair of the Wales Regional Council. This is an opportunity for an eligible Fellow based in Wales to provide professional leadership, represent the interests of Fellows, members and trainees, and help shape the future of pathology as a member of Council and the Trustee Board.

If you are inspired to advance pathology in Wales, please consider standing for election. Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday, 7 August. Look out for nomination emails from Civica with details and links to the nomination portal.

College courses and events

[Autopsy webinar series: How we learned the clinical pathology of HIV/AIDS](#)

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[The recognition, assessment, and management of appendiceal mucinous neoplasms](#)

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

- Definitions
- Epidemiology
- Clinical, Radiological & Gross Features
- Histopathological Assessment
- Staging
- Molecular findings
- Essentials for the report
- Differential diagnoses
- Management
- Prognosis
- Key Takeaways.

Intended target audience: General pathologists, specialists and trainees that are involved in the reporting of appendiceal specimens.

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

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

Wednesday, 18 November 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

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

[Autopsy webinar series: Update on the Medical Examiner Service - 2 years on](#)

Wednesday, 9 December 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 - 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.

RCPATH Retired Fellows' Luncheon 2026

Thursday, 8th October 2026

The RCPATH would like to invite our retired Members, along with a guest, to the Retired Fellows' Luncheon on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 12.15pm for a drinks reception followed by a 1.00pm lunch. The lunch is to be held in the Terrace Room at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT.

This is an opportunity for retired fellows to meet old friends and perhaps make new acquaintances, and follows from the successful lunches held previously.

Should you wish to attend, tickets are priced at £65 per person, for drinks reception and lunch. Please note that places are limited.

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 - 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, 30 September 2026

CPD credits: 6

Guidance and insight for those considering this qualification.

Regional news

RCPATH Wales Symposium 2026

This is a free and in-person only event.

Date: Tuesday 8 September 2026

Venue: Wales Genomic Health Centre, Centre, Cardiff Edge Life Sciences Park, Longwood Drive, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 7YU

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Wales. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Wales. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and hear about the College's work in Wales.

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.

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and find out what the College does in Northern Ireland.

New publications

[G079 Dataset for histopathological reporting of carcinomas and borderline tumours of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and peritoneum](#)

Other events of interest

23 July 2026

[Beyond the Microscope: Skills that Strengthen Practice](#)

18-19 August 2026

Computational Pathology Fundamentals - For more information, please contact: education@diagnexia.com.

20-21 August 2026

[The Fifth Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2026](#)

07 September 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

07-28 September 2026

[Lymphoma Management](#)

09 September 2026

[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Partners - Managing infection risk from hospital sinks and drains \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

11 September 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy \(OPAT\) Regional Workshop – London](#)

16 September 2026

Rapid Diagnostics in Infectious Disease – From Detection to Decision - For more information, please include: edward.levitt@cepheid.com.

16 September 2026
[Pathology Grand Round Lecture](#)

17-19 September 2026
[Paediatric Pathology Society \(PPS\) Meeting](#)

21-25 September 2026
[Gynaepathology virtual week long course](#)

22 September 2026
[Post International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis \(ISTH\) & American Society of Haematology \(ASH\) Headlines 2026](#)

24 September 2026
[Nottingham and Singapore Breast Pathology Masterclass - Part II](#)

24 September 2026
7th Experts in Haematology Faculty Meeting - For more information, please contact: biopharma.uk@grifols.com.

24-26 September 2026
[XLV Symposium of the International Society of Dermatopathology](#)

24-25 September 2026
[7th Cardiac Marker Dialogues meeting](#)

25 September 2026
[The Wessex and Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Virtual Course](#)

29 September 2026
[9th South West Stem Cell Transplant Day](#)

06 October 2026
[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

07 October 2026
[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Partners - Surface disinfection state of the art \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

08 October 2026
[UK Complete Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia \(CLL\) Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#)

09-10 October 2026
[Irish Society of Surgical Pathologists \(ISSP\) 2026](#)

13 October 2026

Gastrointestinal Histopathology Workshop

14 October 2026

Annual Breast Screening Pathology Meeting

04 November 2026

Behaviour change and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) (Insight Webinar)

06 November 2026

Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2026

06 November 2026

UK Lymphoma Research Group

11 November 2026

UK Myeloma Society Autumn Day

20 November 2026

BAUP Annual Meeting with Urology EQA Circulation

30 November – 03 December 2026

The British Society for Immunology (BSI) Congress 2026

07-09 December 2026

International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC)

09 December 2026

Dry surface biofilms: implication for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) (Insight Webinar)

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](#).