



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

RCPATH President's newsletter – January 2023



Professor Mike Osborn
President, The Royal College
of Pathologists

E: michael.osborn@rcpath.org
[@mike4path](https://www.rcpath.org)

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Website](#)

 [Instagram](#)

President's Message

The NHS

A perfect storm of years of under-investment, a growing and aging population coupled with inadequate social care provision and the COVID-19 pandemic, has led to the NHS facing its most severe crisis in living memory.

Conversations with members during my engagement tour have been dominated by discussion of the growing workforce pressures made worse by a long-term lack of workforce planning.

In our work with policymakers, we continue to stress workforce issues and call on the Government to accelerate the publication of its promised independent long-term workforce plan to address chronic staffing shortages across the NHS. In addition, we continue to advocate for extra resources and funding for the pathology workforce and much needed extra training places in all our specialties.

Shortage of pathologists to carry out post mortems

I was interviewed by [Sky News](#) about the high number of excess deaths in 2022, resulting in pathologists struggling to cope with the demand to carry out vital post mortems. In some cases, this leads to delays in bodies being released to loved ones. I also took the opportunity to discuss the workforce and workload pressures on pathology and pathologists in general.

Post mortems are outside of NHS work, meaning that pathologists have to prioritise them between work such as cancer diagnosis and NHS pressures.

Shortage of paediatric pathologists, File on Four BBC Radio 4

The College has raised the acute shortage of paediatric pathologists with policy makers for a number of years. We are also a key partner in the cross-sector Perinatal Pathology National Group, set up by NHS England to oversee all work and action areas linked to perinatal pathology services.

Chair of the College's Pre/Perinatal/Paediatric Pathology Speciality Advisory Committee, Dr Srinivas Annavarapu, highlighted these issues on Radio 4 in [How did my child die? The crisis in paediatric pathology.](#)

New Year Honours

Congratulations to College members who have received well deserved recognition in the [New Year Honours list](#) for their service to the NHS, health and science.

Flu vaccination for NHS staff

Flu infections continue to rise with recent daily figures showing over 5000 people in hospital.

Flu vaccination is recommended for frontline health and social care workers. This should be provided as part of the employing organisation's policy for the prevention of the transmission of flu to help protect staff, their families, and those that they care for. Please encourage colleagues to take up the vaccination.

Nominate the next College President!

I will be finishing my term as President this November. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the pathology profession on behalf of College members.

The nomination phase for the election of the next [College President opened on Friday 6 January 2023.](#) Please consider standing for this fantastic opportunity.

Professor Mike Osborn
President, The Royal College of Pathologists
E: michael.osborn@rcpath.org @mike4path

In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE
- NEW PUBLICATIONS
- REGIONAL NEWS
- COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS
- NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS
- OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

Working for members

Nominate the next College President!

The nomination phase for the election of the next College President opened on Friday 6 January 2023.

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

The President is the face of the College and, through active engagement of the membership, represents the organisation and the views of its members at national and international levels.

The President will work with the Chair of the Trustee Board in reviewing the College Strategy. They will also work closely with the honorary officers, Trustee Board, Council and Senior Management Team to develop and work towards a forward plan and budgets that align with the College's core aims.

Information on the role can be [found here](#). Nominations will be accepted up to midday on Friday 3 March 2023.

Improving diversity and inclusion at the College – member survey

We want to improve diversity and inclusion at the College. To do this, we need your data. We've hosted a survey over recent months and have only received responses from around 5% of our members. With such a small response rate, there are limits to what intelligence we can draw from the data and what action we can take from it.

What data are we asking for?

We are asking for information about protected characteristics, socio-economic indicators, work patterns, caring responsibilities, work settings and plans. There is a second survey that seeks

information about barriers to College engagement. You can find a link to the survey on our website, [here](#). Simply scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the link and log in.

Veterinary pathology recruitment – RCPATH report

The College has published *Veterinary pathology recruitment: challenges and solutions*. The first survey of its kind, the results will act as the baseline for future veterinary pathology data collections. The College has set out four recommendations and related actions to support the specialty. To find out more and read the report visit the [College website](#). Questions? Please contact Fiona.addiscott@rcpath.org.

[Pathology Portal](#)

With over 2,630 modules now live, there have been new contributions in the genetics and genomics sections as well as immunology and microbiology sections – all these areas are undergoing rapid development and are due to go live in the next phase. Histopathology cases and quizzes are continuing to be added. Long cases in autopsy are really useful for those studying for the Certificate of Higher Autopsy Training.

We have been working with the national supported return to training (SupporRTT) team, helping those who come back into training following a break. They are going to use the Portal to support trainees across all specialty areas. Our resources were designed to support returners as well as those in continuing training, and the SupporRTT team was really pleased to see what we have done.

Access to patient records through the NHS App

GP practices are now starting to switch on access through the NHS App as part of a phased rollout. Patients have had the right to request access to records for several years; this programme is focused on making record entries, including laboratory test results, visible by default for most patients. There is [guidance](#) for health staff and we recommend [Lab Tests Online UK](#) as a reputable source of laboratory test information for patients.

Public Engagement

[Save the date – National Pathology Week 2023](#)

A reminder to save the dates for National Pathology Week (NPW) 2023 – 19 to 25 June. We've moved NPW to June permanently, following our Diamond Jubilee celebrations last year. Our theme this year is 'Pathologists and Patients' and you can get ahead with the planning by downloading NPW logos [here](#). [Get in touch with the public engagement team](#) if you would like more information.

[Attend our free public engagement training](#)

Book your place for our popular public engagement training. Run by a team from the Science Museum, the next session of the [Standard Level Public Engagement training](#) will take place at the College on 4 May 2023 from 9.30am to 5pm. This bespoke course is free to members of all grades and offers a unique opportunity to develop skills in communicating their specialty to a range of public audiences. Places are limited. To apply, please email publicengagement@rcpath.org and include your name, job title and specialty.

Get involved at the College

Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board

The College is seeking a Histopathology Fellow to sit on the Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board; a joint committee between the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and the College. The Board advances the practice of biomedical scientists in histopathology reporting and devises and implements training and assessment processes for biomedical scientists to undertake histopathology reporting. Further information about the role and information about how to apply is available on the [College website](#). Applications must be submitted by Friday 17 February.

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 February.

Become a Country Advisor in the Europe region

The College has a global multidisciplinary membership, with 23% of its members currently based outside the UK. The International Team is inviting applications until Monday 16 January 2023, 23.59 (UK time), from Fellows of the College who have at least 5 years' experience as a practising pathologist. You do not have to reside in the country that you wish to represent, but the quality and strength of your professional relationship and links with pathologists, laboratory professionals and institutions within your chosen country will be considered. [Find out more about the role and apply.](#)

Over the course of the next six months there will also be opportunities for Country Advisors to be appointed in South East Asia, Western Pacific and the Americas.

New member needed for the Working Group on Cancer Services

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services is seeking to recruit a new cellular pathology member who has a broad knowledge base in cellular pathology reporting and is 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 Monday 20th February 2023.

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

Regional Surgeries – England

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 you and hear about your work, areas of concern and points

of interest. The surgeries are planned to be held time before the College Council meets to present the region's interests and concerns. These surgeries are also an opportunity for you to meet colleagues across your region.

The next round of regional surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- **South of England surgery:** Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 12–13.30pm – led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi (negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (South)
- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Laszlo Igali (laszlo.igali@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)
- **London surgery:** Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 10am–12pm – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann (rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (London)
- **North of England surgery:** Monday 30 January 2023 at 12.30–2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb (ali.robb@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)

Northern Ireland Symposium 2023 – Save the date

Symposium to be held on 25 May 2023 in Belfast.

New publications

National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series

The ninth document in our National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series has recently been published: [Recording antimicrobial resistance on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death](#). This good practice paper will help medical examiner offices to align with the wider UK Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan and to support surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.

Guideline consultations

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

- Dataset for histopathological reporting of colorectal cancer.
- Tissue pathways for bone and soft tissue pathology.
- Tissue pathways for non-neoplastic neuropathology specimens.

College conferences and symposia

[Discover Pathology Events: Undergraduate Pathology Educational Lecture Series](#) January 2023 – March 2023

This new series of evening virtual webinars is aimed at undergraduate medical students who wish to find out about pathology specialties under the umbrella of the College. 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.

[RCPath Freddie Flynn Symposium](#)

1 March 2023

This special symposium is co-organised with the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB), with a programme reflecting and celebrating the work of Professor Freddie Flynn.

Tickets can be bought with a two-day conference ticket for the ACB National Meeting, which is taking place between 7–9 November at the Royal College of Pathologists.

[3rd United Kingdom Endocrine Pathology Society/Royal College of Pathologists Endocrine Pathology Update](#)

2–3 February 2023

10 CPD Credits

Hear the latest developments in endocrine pathology and oncology from nationally and internationally recognised experts in the field. Join us for a two-day update on endocrine pathology.

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 \(\[rcpath.org\]\(#\)\)](#)

Thursday 23 March 2023

6 CPD credits

[Medical Examiner Training - In Person \(\[rcpath.org\]\(#\)\)](#)

Wednesday 14 June 2023

6 CPD credits

[Medical Examiner training – Virtual \(\[rcpath.org\]\(#\)\)](#)

Thursday 21 September 2023

6 CPD credits

[Medical Examiner Face to Face Training – Virtual \(\[rcpath.org\]\(#\)\)](#)

Thursday 23 March 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 16 February 2023

6 CPD credits

[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

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](#)

10 January 2023

[Insights from ASH 2022: Anticipating the future of UK lymphoma practice](#)

10–11 January 2023

[BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

25–26 January 2023

[Post ASH Significant Highlights](#)

01–02 February 2023

[Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2023 \(ACC2023\)](#)

07 February 2023

[Post ISTH-ASH Headlines – Non-malignant Day](#)

08 March 2023

[UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day](#)

20 March 2023

[What's New in Haematological Malignancies](#)

23 March 2023

[UK Myeloma Society Spring Day](#)

15–16 June 2023

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

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

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