



Newsletter from Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – May 2021

President's Messages of the Month

COVID-19 pandemic in India – College statement

The College is watching the catastrophic and deadly effects of the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India with profound concern.

My thoughts are with everyone in India, and particularly our colleagues and friends there who are dealing with the brutal and devastating effects of this terrible disease. We have published a [statement](#) encouraging those who can, to donate to the [BAPIO \(British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin\) India COVID Fund](#).

Additional training placements in England – histopathology and haematology

Fantastic news, after years of lobbying Health Education England have put funding towards an additional 35 histopathology training posts in England.

The aim is for the posts to be recruited to in the current recruitment round. They will increase the current annual intake of histopathology training posts by about a third.

HEE have also allocated an additional four haematology training posts.

While these new posts are very welcome news, the College has long raised acute workforce shortages across all our specialties. I and everyone at the College is determined to continue to make the case for an adequate and expert workforce, throughout the country

More investment and resources are needed across pathology services if we are to alleviate workforce pressure and meet increased demand which has been compounded by the effect of the pandemic.

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We were deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We extended our condolences, from the College, to our patron, Her Majesty The Queen, and to all members of the Royal Family.

The Pathologist interviews

I was recently interviewed by [The Pathologist](#). The interviews cover what it is like taking up the role of [President in a pandemic](#), where I see [pathology in 10 years' time and more](#).

Medical Examiner Annual Conference

I was delighted to provide the welcome address to over 350 delegates at the first Medical Examiner Annual Conference, hosted by the College on 27 April. I emphasised how honoured we are to be the lead medical royal college for medical examiners.

The College has trained over 1000 medical examiners (ME) and 250 medical examiner officers (MEO) and continues to provide regular training days and continuing professional development opportunities. We work closely with the National Medical Examiner on the implementation of this vital component in the improvement of patient safety, death investigation and support for the bereaved.

The conference included a range of excellent speakers, including the Chief Coroner, leading lawyers, policymakers, and representatives from faith groups and the ME system in Wales.

Nadine Dorries MP, Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, also gave an address thanking everyone working in the medical examiner system for their work, particularly during the pandemic, that often went above and beyond.

Letter to the Secretary of State from Elliot Colburn MP

Last month I reported the productive meeting I had with Elliot Colburn MP (Conservative, Carshalton and Wallington), along with Macmillan Cancer Support. Following the meeting, we were very pleased to see Elliot Colburn MP write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to highlight concerns over backlogs in cancer services.

On the agenda

- College Registrar, Dr Lance Sandle, and College Fellow Dr Mohammad Raza, Consultant Virologist, attended a virtual roundtable meeting organised by the King's Fund on the role of point of care testing in preventing the spread of communicable disease and, in particular, respiratory disease.
- We were delighted to support a new report, Crohn's and Colitis Care in the UK: The Hidden Cost and a Vision for Change, published by the IBD UK alliance, of which we are a member. The report looks at issues in diagnosing Crohn's and Colitis, and poor care after diagnosis; their findings show people wait too long for diagnosis and just eight per cent of inflammatory bowel disease services have enough histopathologists.

Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists

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In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- PROMOTING PATHOLOGY
- NEW PUBLICATIONS
- COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS
- NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS
- OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

WORKING FOR MEMBERS

Pride Month – June

What is it & why is it important?

Every year in June, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBTQ+) community celebrate as a way of recognising the struggles and influence LGBTQ+ people have had around the world. June was chosen because it was when the Stonewall riots took place in 1969. LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience physical violence, harassment, bullying, abuse and discrimination than their cisgendered straight colleagues.

Furthermore, LGBTQ+ people have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic suffering from poor mental health, social isolation and delayed access to healthcare. [*BMJ - How covid-19 has exacerbated LGBTQ+ health inequalities.*](#)

By increasing visibility of LGBTQ+ issues and being intentionally inclusive, it is hoped that inequalities will reduce.

What can you do?

We are asking members of the College to post pictures/ images on social media that recognise and celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusivity in pathology, the wider workplace and beyond. Members are encouraged to join in and share their experiences by also tagging the College's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, where members of the College's Communications Team will retweet and share posts. The efforts and support of LGBTQ+ allies and advocates of inclusion are vital for change to be brought about.

Summary of amendments to the College's Charter and Ordinances

In 2019 the College commissioned a review of its [Royal Charter, Ordinances and Bye-Laws](#) and opened a consultation with College Fellows. Following the consultation, a set of changes were put forward to the [Privy Council](#) which have recently been approved: They include:

- the role of College President should rotate between candidates working in different specialties. In addition, College Presidents may only serve for one three-year term. They will not be able to stand for re-election after serving their term.
- the introduction of the use of gender neutral terminology in place of masculine pronouns, to be used throughout the Charter and Ordinances
- Extension of voting rights for Diplomate Members – This will enable Diplomate members to participate in the election of Honorary Officers, General Council Members, and if the Diplomate lives in England, English Regional Representatives on the Council.

Become a performance reviewer for invited reviews

We are recruiting for reviewers to undertake RCPATH invited reviews. This is a fantastic opportunity for personal development by representing the College and helping colleagues and their departments, thereby making a significant contribution to improving

patient safety. Visit the [Performance reviewers for invited reviews](#) page and submit your application to professionalism@rcpath.org by 31 July 2021

Website update: Improving password security

From 26 April, we will be introducing new functionality for passwords to further improve on our site security. The aim of this is to help prevent brute force attacks, which uses trial and error to guess log in information correctly with excessive forceful attempts. When logging into the College website, if a password is entered incorrectly more than 10 times, the account will be locked for 30 minutes. After the 30 minutes are up, a new password will need to be created. The website will warn you when there are 3 or less attempts left. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Publishing and Digital team at digital@rcpath.org

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) datasets consultation

The ICCR 7 Female reproductive organs datasets are now [available for consultation](#) until Friday 28 May 2021.

UK online workforce census – are your details up to date?

Thank you to the 2000+ members who have updated their details!

If you have not completed your workforce census [online](#) (log in required) for over 365 days, you will be redirected to fill out this information upon logging in. We encourage you to complete the census; this reminder will continue to appear until you do. You will still be able to log in and browse the website as normal. It takes <5 minutes to complete 14 questions.

The College is asked to provide an informed view on issues pertaining to the pathology workforce by members, government and workforce agencies. The census data helps us to promote our specialties and to drive up awareness of the issues you face and the risks these pose to the health of the population. It's kept confidential and only used in an anonymised form. Contact Fiona at fiona.addiscott@rcpath.org with any questions.

GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

Committee Chair Vacancies

The College has several committee Chair vacancies in the following specialty areas:

- Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee
- Dermatopathology Sub-committee
- Cellular Pathology Subspecialty Advisor in Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Pathology

Why should I apply?

The Royal College of Pathologists is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology, for the benefit of patients. Those holding office in the College contribute to this important work by providing professional leadership and contributing at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of patient care.

Who should apply?

Make a difference and help to shape College activities and policy by building the profile of your specialty and pathology in general through our committees.

How to apply

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the College website at: <https://www.rcpath.org/about-the-college/get-involved-volunteer-role-listing.html> and submit your application to elections@rcpath.org by Friday 4 June 2021.

Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles

Trainees – take up an active role on the TAC! We are looking for enthusiastic trainees to join the Trainees' Advisory Committee. The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. Representatives on the TAC are responsible for raising issues on behalf of trainees in their specialty. The committee representatives are also active members of the [College's specialty committees](#), participating in discussions and informing the committee of the views of specialty trainees.

Why should I apply?

Make a difference – work with other trainees in your specialty, network with your peers, get involved with the College's work and support your professional development.

What TAC roles are available?

- Cellular Pathology
- Immunology
- Toxicology
- Veterinary Pathology

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 30 June and further details about the role can be found [here](#).

Webinars: What I Wish I'd Known

The [College's Trainee Advisory Committee](#) has worked closely with the Learning and Communications directorates in the College to produce videos to support trainees as they prepare for exams. The last year has been challenging for everyone but none more so than trainees who, as well as having their training impacted, have continued to prepare for their College examinations. These videos are intended to provide tips and advice to support trainees. Videos will be added for other specialties as soon as they are available. We are very grateful to the trainees who have provided them.

Submit a case study and claim CPD credits

Would you like to share your knowledge and experiences with colleagues and earn CPD credits?

We are looking for case studies on experiences that have, or may have, impacted on patient safety. The case study should describe what went well or less well, and why.

We would also like to hear how the situation was approached and resolved, what was learnt, and how this was shared. This constitutes high-quality learning and you can claim 1 CPD credit per case study you send us in your online CPD portfolio.

For an example of a published case study, please see [DCIS - how sinister it could be](#). For more information, please email cpd@rcpath.org.

AWARDS

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. The category for this year's award is scientific or technical transfusion.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee for consideration by 25 June 2021 via Alison Morgan (alison.morgan@rcpath.org).

Please use the citation to describe your nominee's background, achievements and contributions to the field of blood transfusion in no more than 750 words.

Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary

The Trainee Travel Bursary is offered each spring and autumn to a value of up to £500. The bursary can be used to cover costs for trainee clinicians and clinical scientists enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme and working in the field of transfusion medicine, to enable their participation in a national or international blood transfusion meeting.

Further details and an application form can be downloaded from the [College website](#). The deadline for spring applications is 5pm on Friday 30 April.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Symposia

You are invited to attend the regional symposia in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

Northern Ireland Symposium 2021 (3 CPD credits)

Thursday 27 May 2021 (9.30am–1pm)

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in pathology, as well as having the opportunity to share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will also hear from the President, Dr Mike Osborn, about the College's role in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters. Attendance at the symposium is free! Further information and registration for the event are available via the [Northern Ireland Symposium 2021 webpage](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Please save the dates below for the regional symposia taking place online this year. Further information about each of the events will follow over the next few months:

- Wales Symposium – Wednesday 9 June 2021 (1–5pm) – Trainee Forum with the President to be held between 12–1pm
- Scotland Symposium – Friday 8 October

INTERNATIONAL

The 20th edition of Medlab Middle East Congress – External event

- Online event 23 May–22 July 2021
- Live event will take place between 21–24 June, 2021 at the Dubai World Trade Centre (please ensure any travel is in line with the COVID-19 travel guidelines of your country residence).

This year's congress offers a hybrid of online and in person opportunities to hear from globally renowned speakers.

As a supporting body we are delighted to have several fantastic speakers representing the College across the event programme:

- Professor Ismail Matalka, newly appointed Clinical Director of International activities, will give a talk titled 'Liver pathology: a potpourri of cases from Jordan'.
- Professor Sarah Coupland, RCPATH Vice-President for Communications will present on the application of molecular diagnostics in ocular pathology.
- Immediate past president Professor Jo Martin will be discussing 'Multi-omics: what do we know and how do we apply'.

Individual and group booking discounts are available to College Fellows. Visit Medlab's [website](#) or contact their team at medlabcongress@informa.com to find out more.

PROMOTING PATHOLOGY

Help spread the word about our essay competitions

The Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize closes on Friday 14 May and the Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize closes on 11 June. This year, we're inviting undergraduate and Foundation doctors to explore the major contributions of pathology to managing COVID-19 and testing strategies, respectively. Winners will receive £200 and have their essay published. Find out more on our [essay competitions page](#).

Apply for funding for your public engagement events

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers grants of up to £1,000 for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. The closing date for this year's scheme is 1 June 2021. The public engagement team are happy to answer questions and provide advice to any prospective grant applicants so [get in touch](#) if you would like to discuss your application. Online/virtual event ideas are welcomed. Find out more on our [website](#).

RCPATH Book Club featuring *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

We're excited to announce that Jeri and David Lacks will be taking part in the next RCPATH Book Club on Monday 21 June. Join us to find out how their grandmother, Henrietta Lacks, has contributed to scientific advancement through HeLa cells.

Get creative with our Art of Pathology Competition

We're inviting entrants of all ages from the UK and abroad to interpret this year's theme, 'All Together Now', using any artistic medium of choice. The winner from each of the three age categories will receive £50 and have their artwork published online and in the Bulletin.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- The National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series is a topical collection of focused summary documents, designed to be easily read and digested by busy front-line staff, with links to further reading, guidance and support. The second document in our series provides recommendations for [how medical examiners can facilitate urgent release of a body](#).

- The April 2021 issue of the [Bulletin](#), which explores the development of genetics and genomics, and their application and role in pathology and precision medicine.

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Going digital: Practical guide to digital pathology deployments from those who've done it

Tuesday 11 May 2021

CPD credits: 3

An online workshop about the practicalities of implementing digital pathology. The event covers the College approach to digital pathology safety, practical advice from several groups who have implemented digital pathology. Also covered will be the latest College guidance on using digital pathology during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Q&A session will allow delegates plenty of opportunity to get tips from those who've already gone digital.

Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy – Virtual Event & Bitesize Series

Friday 14 May 2021 and weekly events from 1 June

CPD credits: 12

To accompany our one day programme, 'Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy – Virtual Event', the 'Bitesize Liver' webinar series has been added. Delegates will have the option to attend the full day programme only, the full day programme plus all the webinar sessions or the option to pick and choose what to attend.

Virtual Liver Event – 14 May 2021 – The aim of this 'virtual' liver day is to provide a good grounding for the approach to liver biopsies. It will also facilitate updates of recent practical advancements in liver pathology and the understanding of more common diagnoses to improve a standardised approach to the reporting of liver cases. It is relevant to all those who report liver pathology.

Bitesize Liver webinar series: 1 June to 5 July – A webinar series of six one-hour long sessions to run weekly, starting 1 June 2021. These sessions will have a small number of digital slides made available to view prior to each week. Each session will include discussion through the cases, with experts highlighting any recent advancements in that area and also providing hints and tips to aid in diagnosis.

Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass – Addressing Challenges in Breast Pathology – External Event

Thursday 27 May 2021

CPD credits: 7

The renowned masterclass moves online in 2021, focusing on addressing challenges in diagnostic breast pathology. With a faculty of leading experts from across the world, the masterclass is ideal for practising pathologists, pathology Fellows and trainees. Topics include:

- the use of IHC in diagnostic breast pathology
- improving concordance in breast cancer reporting
- an update on receptor assessment in breast cancer and pitfalls
- WHO updates on breast tumour classification
- diagnostically challenging breast lesions
- diagnostic challenges on core biopsies
- approaches to diagnosis microscopy workshops
- meet the experts.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts – Virtual Event

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021

CPD credits: 10

Placental pathology is a unique area of perinatal pathology. Its understanding requires knowledge of normal development, physiology and histopathology, as well as fetal and maternal medicine. Requests for placental examinations have grown exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched by a growth in histopathologists trained in reporting them. This course will provide an update on placental physiology, current classification and new insights into the knowledge of placental conditions.

The course is designed for paediatric/perinatal and general histopathology trainees at any stage of their training, as well as consultants. The course will also be of benefit to obstetricians, both consultants and those in training.

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.

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 session – Virtual Training

Thursday 20 May 2021

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 examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Friday 9 July 2021

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Friday 24 September 2021

CPD credits: 6

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANIATIONS

The Association of LGBTQ+ doctors and dentists (GLADD)

GLADD is promoting a review of LGBTQ+ health inequalities teaching. Examples of formal teaching about LGBTQ+ health inequality, aimed at healthcare professionals at undergraduate and postgraduate level, are sought. If anyone has any information or experience please contact catherine.meads@aru.ac.uk.

BMJ awards

The BMJ Awards are an opportunity to share your work amongst an audience of healthcare professionals and seize the opportunity to elevate your profile. The deadline to submit is 14 June 2021 and entries are open to all UK healthcare teams. Multiple projects can be submitted, but only one entry per category is allowed. View all [categories here](#).

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

04-31 May 2021

[NTW21 virtual conference](#)

5 May 2021

[UKFHD 51st Academic Meeting](#)

5 May 2021

[12 months of COVID – what have we learned? Part 2 \(IPC management of patients and staff\)](#)

10-11 May 2021

British Association of Urological Pathologists Virtual Bladder Pathology Course - For more information, please contact: events@baup.org.uk

12 May 2021

[BSBMTCT Scientific Day](#)

14 May 2021

[ITP Updates: How to improve care for our patients](#)

14-15 May 2021

[Annual SHOT Symposium 2021](#)

15 May 2021

[Virtual Blood Club II in the Covid Era](#)

18 May 2021

[Take control of Pseudomonas and Legionella in Hospital Water](#)

18 May 2021

[AI for Pathologists](#)

20 May 2021

[British Infection Association – 23rd Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

20 May 2021

AI for Pathologists

24-25 May 2021

British Association of Urological Pathologists Virtual Prostate Pathology Course - For more information, please contact: events@baup.org.uk

24-25 May 2021

Kings College Car-t Cell Preceptorship

26 May 2021

23rd London Lymphoma Forum

28 May 2021

Introduction to guideline development

2 June 2021

Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Virtual Conference

2 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 1

9 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 2

16 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 3

21-25 June 2021

IAOP meeting 2021 (online meeting)

25 June 2021

Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies

05 July 2021

The British Society for Dermatopathology's 8th Annual Virtual Self-Assessment Course 2021

4-9 September 2021

Live On-line Diagnostic Dermatopathology course

4-9 September 2021; then 2 hours every Saturday 10am-12pm up to 30+ hours

- For more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz: hendmahfouz21@gmail.com

RCPATH CPD-accredited online resources can be found [here](#).

