

# Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee

EST 1962

## President's newsletter – October 2022



**Professor Mike Osborn**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Website](#)

 [Instagram](#)

### President's Message

#### **New Prime Minister, Secretary of State and Health and Social Care Select Committee Chair**

In one of his first tasks as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has reshuffled his cabinet, reappointing Steve Barclay as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. I have written to the new Health Secretary requesting a meeting to ensure that pathology is high on the Secretary's agenda as he takes up his new role. I will also be writing to the new health ministers once they are in post.

We are also anticipating the election of a new Chair of the Health and Select Committee in early November. We had a good working relationship with outgoing Chair, Jeremy Hunt and we will work to ensure this continues with the new Chair.

#### **Your College, Your Profession Member Engagement Tour**

In late September and early October we held the first 'Your college, your profession' events in Plymouth & London. These were attended by members from different specialties and stages in their careers.

The groups discussed issues around workforce and resourcing, providing examples of problems faced and examples of solutions implemented locally, and suggestions of actions for the College to pursue or raise with policymakers. The NHS England Regional Lead for Pathology Services attended the Plymouth event which was particularly helpful in relation to these discussions. Subsequent discussions focused on what

the College does well and what it can do better. The conversations were frank and helpful. We certainly learnt a great deal from these first engagement events and I was very pleased to be able to have the opportunity to meet members and have such a productive and constructive discussion.

Further events have been arranged across the UK, with meetings in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Belfast, Bodelwyddan, Newcastle, Norwich and London before Christmas. To book onto one of these please visit [Book onto a conference \(rcpath.org\)](https://www.rcpath.org). In the New Year we will host more in-person events and these will be supported by online meetings, to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be involved in the discussion. We want to hear all member feedback. If you have any suggestions on how the College can better support you please email us at [mycollege@rcpath.org](mailto:mycollege@rcpath.org).

### **Histopathology Reporting: Advanced Practice and Scientist Reporting**

The College and the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) will be jointly hosting a hybrid meeting on Friday 11 November between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

The meeting aims to discuss extended roles for Biomedical Scientists undertaking advanced Histopathology Reporting on defined histopathology specimens with consultant oversight.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the programme, look at other areas of medical practice where extended roles have been successful and for senior representatives of the College, IBMS and Health Education England (HEE) to listen to any concerns or other feedback.

Histopathology and Dermatopathology RCPATH members are invited to the meeting and can attend either in person or virtually (subject to capacity). For further information please see the [College website](https://www.rcpath.org).

### **College members reach John O'Groats in aid of Cancer Research UK.**

Last month I highlighted the incredible 1,913 kilometre journey College Vice-President, Professor Sarah Coupland and College members Rachel Brown, Aditya Shivane and Martin Gill undertook to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK while highlighting the vital role of pathology in cancer diagnostics and patient care on the way.

Joined by cancer patients and people whose family members have been affected by cancer, they have collectively raised over £40,000. [Find out more on the College website.](#)

### **Engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders**

We were pleased to join the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges at their '[Fixing the NHS](#)' roundtable events at both the Conservative and Labour party conferences.

Professor Sarah Coupland, Vice President for Communications, attended the event at the Labour conference where she was joined by Feryal Clark MP.

Feryal Clark MP delivered the closing remarks following the varied discussion on pressures facing the NHS and social care and the short and long-term solutions that can make a difference for patients.

I attended the roundtable at the Conservative party conference to advocate for pathology services and raise pressing workforce issues. Lord Bethell, Former Parliamentary Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, delivered the opening remarks to stimulate discussion and there were some useful insights spanning workforce, integration, tech and patient access and experience.

I also met Matt Warman MP who has a particular interest in innovation and technology. We will continue to work with these politicians to highlight the importance of diagnostics in healthcare.

We joined 200 member organisations in the Health Inequalities Alliance, to write a [joint letter](#) to the Health and Social Care Secretary of State. The letter urged her to maintain the commitment to publish the Health Disparities white paper and to commit to a cross-government strategy to reduce health inequalities.

**Professor Mike Osborn**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
**E: [michael.osborn@rcpath.org](mailto:michael.osborn@rcpath.org) [@mike4path](https://twitter.com/mike4path)**

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

## Diamond Jubilee – Celebrating 60 years of the College

### College's 60th anniversary

[2022 is the College's Diamond Jubilee year](#). The College was founded on 21 June 1962 to develop and support the evolving specialties of pathology. We are now over half-way through the year and celebrations continue with events and activities across the UK. Visit the College website to [find out what's happening in your region](#).

### College Open Day

The College Open Day on 8 September saw 65 secondary school students take part in member-led activities at the College in London to inspire and inform them about pathology careers. Volunteer members laid on a range of hands-on activities that showcased their specialties and highlighted the importance of their work in healthcare. We received great feedback from the students with one commenting: 'It was great - an amazing experience.'

The day began with a visit from Her Royal Highness, Birgitte Eva van Deurs Henriksen, Duchess of Gloucester and Mr Leslie Morgan OBE, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets. The Duchess of Gloucester met Trustees and students and attended the 'Living Autopsy' session with Dr Suzy Lishman.

## Devolved nations regional council – Diamond Jubilee events

### [RCPATH Scotland 60th Anniversary Symposium: What has pathology ever done for us? \(7 CPD credits\)](#)

25 November 2022

To be held at the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9DW

This free symposium is in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the College and is aimed at College fellows, members, trainees, medical students, and other stakeholders including government, parliamentarians, board chief executives, medical directors and the media.

Laboratory services are vital to healthcare. This symposium will highlight how such services provide an important foundation for a variety of key medical and surgical disciplines.

In addition, topics will also include relevance to research, development, innovation, cutting edge cardiac marker and artificial intelligence advances.

A programme of high-profile speakers includes the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Scientist, Chief Healthcare Science Officer and four Presidents of national bodies.

## Working for members

### World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 18 – 24 November

[Register](#) for our webinar on 'How antimicrobial resistance affect us' – Monday 21 November 1:00–2:00pm to support the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.

### Red cell shortage in England

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has triggered an amber alert. It is working with hospitals to manage blood supply. They have now written to hospitals to ask them to limit their use of blood in some patient care to optimise overall supply. NHSBT's guidance and letter can be viewed on the [College website](#).

### John James OBE and Charlotte Silver win Percy Lane Oliver Memorial Award 2022

The College is delighted to announce that the [winners of the Percy Lane Oliver Memorial Award 2022](#) (Lay Category) are John James OBE and Charlotte Silver for their outstanding contribution to blood and transfusion science.

The standard of applications was extremely high this year, and after much deliberation the panel awarded the prize to two recipients. Both will be presented with their award at the [SHOT Symposium](#) in November.

### Pathology Portal

Over 2,200 modules are now published on the Pathology Portal and many of you have now become very active users of these for training and for CPD. A huge thank you to all our brilliant faculties, trainees and editors for creating such amazing content. Significant new collections of materials include breast cases, cardiac EQA cases and haemophilia lectures.

In preparation for the next stage of 'live' releases of specialty areas, we are adding paediatric and perinatal cases, microbiology resources and a wealth of other haematology materials. New materials are being added all the time, so keep an eye out.

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We have been working hard to ensure that our international members have an easier way to get access to the Portal and we are adding a web form on the Pathology Portal page to help make things smoother for those who do not have the required email accounts. For further information on how to access the Portal, go to [our webpage](#).

### **Model job descriptions**

Did you know? We provide a free service where we review and approve consultant level and Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS) grade job descriptions, arrange College assessors to attend advisory appointment committees (AAC) and provide guidance on recruiting the right candidates. Our newly revised guidance document and relevant links are [available online](#).

### **Service Spotlight blog: the cervical screening London (CSL) team at Health Services Laboratories**

Our Service Spotlight blog series highlights pathology services that operate at an exceptional standard. For our [latest instalment](#), Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Biomedical Scientist, Head of Cervical Screening Service at Health Services Laboratories LLP and winner of the RCPATH Achievements awards 2020 for significant contribution to her specialty, tells us about the advancements, challenges and the future of cervical screening.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [Innovation at Cambridge University Hospital](#)
- [Patient Care at the heart of the Liverpool Roald Dahl Haemostasis and Thrombosis Centre](#)
- [Patient Safety at the heart of the Oxford Anticoagulation Service](#)
- [Genomics at the Central & South NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub and West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory](#)

### **Educational Update 2022 meeting**

This annual meeting will be held remotely on Friday 25 November 2022 at 10.00am to 12.00pm and this year's theme is 'Equality, diversity and inclusion with a focus on differential attainment'. The keynote speaker is Professor Kamila Hawthorne, who will share her experience about tackling differential attainment in medical education. Professor Hawthorne is the incoming Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Her biography is on the Zoom registration page. The programme and information on how to book your place is at [on the College website](#).

## **Public Engagement**

### **[Listen to the latest Pathologists in Profile podcast episode](#)**

In September, during World Alzheimer's Month, we featured neuropathologist Dr Zane Jaunmuktane. In the first episode, find out why Zane is so passionate about neuropathology, what brought her to the UK from Latvia and about her research on neurodegenerative diseases. In Zane's second episode, we explore the past, present and future of

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neurodegenerative diseases linked to misfolded proteins, namely Alzheimer's disease and prion diseases such as Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease.

### **[Sign up for the next RCPATH Book Club – 6pm GMT, Tuesday 29 November](#)**

Join author and Professor of Immunology, Daniel M Davis, to discuss his book *The Secret Body: How the New Science of the Human Body Is Changing the Way We Live*. Find out more and register for free on the [Book Club webpage](#).

## **Get involved at the College**

### **Veterinary Pathology Speciality Advisory Committee Chair. Deadline extended!**

There is still time to apply for the role of Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair. The closing date is Friday 25 November.

#### **Why should I apply?**

The College 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.

#### **What does the role entail?**

The SAC on Veterinary Pathology exists to advise Council on matters concerning veterinary practice in the UK. Further details about the role can be found in the role description below.

#### **What is the commitment?**

- Attendance at two SAC meetings per year
- Co-ordination of matters relating to SAC activities, including drafting reports
- Reporting to College Council as requested
- Term of office: three years.

Details about the role and how to apply are available on the website [here](#). Deadline extended!

### **International Pathology Day this November will celebrate the College's Diamond Jubilee – 1 November**

Exploring the theme 'Adapting laboratory medicine to global developments and challenges', together with our event sponsors – the British Society for Haematology and *The Pathologist* – we invite you to join us, either in person or virtually, on Tuesday 1 November.

The programme includes a range of talks from four speakers, including special guest and keynote speaker Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, who will be joining us virtually.

Our roundtable discussion will explore the international activities of the College in a changing world – past, present and future. There is also a poster competition open to both international and national entrants. For more information and to register your place to attend in person or virtually, please visit [IPD – 1 November](#).



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## Regional News

### Regional surgeries in England

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are warmly invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. These are planned to be held in the time before College Council meets to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

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

- **South of England surgery:** Tuesday 1 November 2022, 12.30–2.00pm – led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi ([negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org](mailto:negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (South)
- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** TBC – led by Dr Laszlo Igali ([laszlo.igali@rcpath.org](mailto:laszlo.igali@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)
- **London surgery:** Tuesday 1 November 2022, 10.30am–12.30pm – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann ([rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org](mailto:rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (London)
- **North of England surgery:** Friday 4 November 2022, 12.30–2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb ([ali.robb@rcpath.org](mailto:ali.robb@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)

## New Publications

- [The October Bulletin, which concludes our Jubilee special editions with the theme 'Celebrating the people and specialties of pathology'](#)
- [G117 Guidelines on autopsy practice: Post-mortem examination in patients with cerebrovascular disease](#)
- [Patient Safety Bulletin: First do no harm – antimicrobial prescribing in the penicillin allergic patient](#)

## College conferences and symposia

[Discover Pathology Events: Undergraduate Pathology Educational Lecture Series](#)  
October 2022 – March 2023



This new series of evening virtual webinars is aimed at undergraduate medical students who wish to find out about the specialties under the umbrella of the Royal College of Pathologists. The aim is to supplement students' learning in pathology and 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.

### **[RCPath Freddie Flynn Symposium](#)**

**10 November 2022**

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 are purchasable 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.

### **[RCPath Veterinary Pathology School for trainees/residents – Virtual Training](#)**

**18 November 2022**

**CPD credits: 6**

The College's veterinary pathology residency programmes comprise of three main disciplines: anatomic, clinical and microbiology. This exciting event is aimed at veterinary pathology (anatomic and clinical) and microbiology residents at any stage of their training. Therefore, the emphasis is on the FRCPath programme, but those studying for ACVP, ECVCP, ECVM and ECVF exams may also find the programme of interest.

### **[Advances in Transfusion Medicine – Virtual Event](#)**

**23 and 24 November 2020**

**CPD credits: 4 per day**

There are exciting ongoing developments in transfusion medicine and science with high quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This virtual meeting will be held over two half days and has been organised on behalf of the College in collaboration with the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) UK Haemovigilance Scheme. The meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines with leaders in transfusion science to provide an update on key developments. The meeting will be of interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

### **[Paediatric dermatopathology Course - Hybrid Event](#)**

**28 November 2022**

**CPD credits: 6**

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. A one-day course designed to learn from the experts about challenging cases in this field.

### **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 training session – Virtual Training**

**Wednesday 7 December 2022**

**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**

**Wednesday 30 November 2022**

**CPD credits: 6**

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference team at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) or on 020 7451 6700.

## **News from external organisations**

### **23 November 2022, The Royal College of Pathologists, London**

#### **Digital Pathology (DP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Are we there yet?**

The Digital Pathology and Artificial Intelligence Showcase is a Roche sponsored event where keynote speakers will share the current research occurring within the DP and AI space, and discuss how technological advances can make a significant difference to a patient's diagnosis journey.

The audience will comprise pathologists, clinicians, laboratory scientists and healthcare professionals and will include representatives from NPIC (National Pathology Imaging Co-operative). For more information visit: [DP and AI – Are we there yet?](#)

### **New sessions added to national breast imaging programme**

The National Breast Imaging Academy (NBIA) e-learning programme has recently been updated with the following new sessions:

- Mammography Equipment
- Radiopathological Correlation of Benign Change in the Axilla
- Equipment Controls, Image Quality and Emerging Technologies (ultrasound)
- MRI Interpretation – Benign Breast Disease

Additional sessions will be added to the e-learning catalogue as soon as they are available. For more information and to access the sessions, please visit the [NBIA programme page](#).

### **BSACI guideline for the set-up of penicillin allergy de-labelling services by non-allergists working in a hospital setting**

The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) published a guideline for the set-up of penicillin allergy de-labelling services by non-allergists working in a hospital setting.

Penicillin allergy labels are associated with antimicrobial resistance, are less effective in healthcare and increase healthcare costs. Most penicillin allergy labels prove to be incorrect when tested, therefore removal of an incorrect label is a key strategy for improving antimicrobial stewardship and reducing patient harm from alternative antibiotics.

[The new guideline](#) provides a framework for the set-up and delivery of penicillin allergy de-labelling services by non-allergists with an interest in clarifying the penicillin allergy status in adults and children with an untested label of penicillin allergy.

## Other external events of interest

01 November 2022

[BSBMTCT Education Day](#)

02 November 2022

[UK MDS Forum Education Day](#)

04 November 2022

[Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Advances 2022](#)

04 November 2022

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course - Virtual course](#)

04 November 2022

[BSAC National OPAT Conference 2022](#)

08-09 November 2022

[UKMedLab22](#)

09 November 2022

[UKMF Autumn Day](#)

14 November 2022

The ICR and RMH/BRC Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy in Haematological Malignancies Meeting – For more information, please contact: [hannah.holmes@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:hannah.holmes@rmh.nhs.uk)

15 November 2022

[BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas webinar: Hospital acquired and ventilator associated pneumonia](#)

20-25 November 2022

[Molecular Pathology and Diagnosis of Cancer Advanced Course](#)

23 November 2022

[26th London Lymphoma Forum](#)

23 November 2022

[UK FHD 54th Academic Meeting](#)

25 November 2022

Consultant Pathologist AP Update Course - For more information, please contact:

[m.madigan1@nhs.net](mailto:m.madigan1@nhs.net)

2 December 2022

[BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas webinar: Acute Respiratory infections](#)

05–08 December 2022

[British Society for Immunology Congress 2022](#)

10–11 January 2023

[BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

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