

## Death Investigation Committee

### Terms of Reference

#### 1 Purpose

The Death Investigation Committee will advise Council and oversee the delivery of the responsibilities of the College with respect to all matters and issues relating to the investigation of non-forensic deaths by pathologists in the United Kingdom, including

#### 2 Accountability for:

##### Standards and Best Practice

- Giving advice to Specialty Advisory Committees and College Specialty Training Committees (CSTCs) regarding service implications of changes to training in and policies relating to non-forensic autopsy work.
- Delivering information and recommendations to the Workforce Department on matters relating to workforce planning for autopsy pathology.
- Advising on the production of learning resources for pathologists in training or in independent practice, e.g., e-learning resources.
- Coordinating the production of guidelines relating to non-forensic autopsy scenarios, for example deaths due to drowning, hanging, imaging-based autopsies, etc.
- Considering all proposals, guidelines, official documents and other developments of which the College becomes aware that are likely to have an impact on the work of autopsy pathologists.

##### Specialty Engagement

- Working with the Communications Department and other members of College staff to develop a section of the website with information and services that are relevant to autopsy pathologists.
- Providing advice and/or guidelines to non-forensic autopsy pathologists regarding when to refer a post mortem to a forensic pathologist.
- Providing advice to non-forensic autopsy pathologists regarding interactions with medical examiners, coroners and procurators fiscal.
- Representing the field of non-forensic autopsy pathology to external stakeholders and advising on relevant national policy on matters as necessary.
- Undertaking any other work of relevance to autopsy pathologists as Council sees fit.

#### 3 Membership

The membership of the Committee will be College appointed members<sup>1</sup> or designated representatives of approved bodies and shall be approved by Council, and membership shall comprise the following:

- Chair (must be an active Autopsy Pathologist who carries out regular non-forensic autopsies)
- Autopsy pathologists (up to ten)
- A forensic pathologist
- A toxicologist (involved in death investigation)



- The lead examiner for the Certificate of Higher Autopsy Training (CHAT)
- The autopsy guidelines series co-editor
- A Trainees' Advisory Committee representative from histopathology and forensic pathology
- A post mortem CT advisor (radiologist or radiographer)
- The Chair or a nominee from the following SACs:
  - a) Cellular Pathology
  - b) Forensic Pathology
  - c) Medical Examiners Committee
  - d) Neuropathology
  - e) Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology
- Honorary officer representation (ex officio) - Officers are all ex-officio members of committees and should be included in any item that requires a vote
- RCPATH Director of Communications
- Devolved nation representatives:
  - a) Scottish representative
  - b) Northern Ireland representative
  - c) Wales representative
- Representatives from external organisations/bodies:
  - a) A representative nominated by the Chief Coroner's Office.
  - b) A representative nominated by the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service
  - c) A representative nominated by the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland
  - d) A coroner proposed by the Coroners' Society of England and Wales
  - e) A representative nominated by the Human Tissue Authority
  - f) A representative nominated by the Association of Anatomical Pathology Technology

*\*Appendix 1- attached is a complete list of named members currently on the committee.*

The Royal College of Pathologists understands the value and strength that diversity brings, and we are proud to be an organisation of members from a wide range of backgrounds. We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

#### **4 Meetings**

- Two meetings per year should normally be held, with quoracy being three members.
- Discussion and decision via email or other electronic means is encouraged outside of formal meetings.
- Administration for meetings will be provided by a member of RCPATH Corporate Services team.
- Agendas and papers will be circulated at least one week before each meeting.
- Minutes will be made available on the College website, with access restricted to college members only via myrcpath.

#### **5 Resources**

- Travelling expenses will be paid to members (but not observers) of the committee in line with the College's expenses policy. The expenses policy is available on the website. Claims should be made through the College's on-line finance system.

Terms of Reference agreed at Committee meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Chair of Committee:

Dr Esther Youd

Signed

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Approved at College Council meeting

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Review date (3 years following Council approval):

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Chair (must be an active Autopsy Pathologist who carries out regular non-forensic autopsies)	Dr Esther Youd
Autopsy pathologist members x10	Dr Martin Goddard Dr Kathryn Griffin Dr Lisa Barker Dr Adam Bickers Dr Abigail Sharp Dr Richard Shepherd Dr Ian Scott Dr Anna Rycroft Dr Deirdre McKenna Dr Preethi Gopinath
Forensic pathologist	Dr Gemma Kemp
Toxicologist (involved in death investigation)	Professor Atholl Johnston
Lead examiner for the Certificate in Higher Autopsy Training (CHAT)	Dr Katherine Syred
Series co-editor of RCPATH Autopsy Guidelines	Dr Ben Swift
Trainees' Advisory Committee - Histopathology trainee - Forensic pathology trainee	Dr Erin Whyte Dr Sophie Wallace
Post mortem CT advisor (radiologist or radiographer)	Dr Jim Simpson, Consultant Radiologist
<b>The Chair or a nominee from the following SACs:</b>	
Cellular Pathology	Dr Adrian Bateman, Chair, Cellular Pathology SAC
Forensic Pathology	Dr Ralph Bouhaidar, Chair, Forensic Pathology SAC
Medical Examiners Committee	Dr Frances Cranfield <b>Or</b> Professor Carol Seymour
Neuropathology	Professor Tim Dawson, Consultant Neuropathologist
Prenatal, perinatal and paediatric pathology	Dr Clair Evans, Chair, Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology SAC
Devolved nation representatives (if not included in main membership): - Scottish representative - Northern Ireland representative - Wales representative	As above Vacant Vacant
Honorary officer representation (ex officio). Officers are all ex-officio members of committees and should be included in any item that requires a vote.	Professor Marta Cohen, RCPATH Vice President of Learning
RCPATH Director of Communications	Ms Diane Gaston
<b>Representatives from external organisations/bodies:</b>	
Chief Coroner's Office	Giselle Terry, Head of the Chief Coroner's Office
Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service	Andy Shanks, Head of the Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit
Coroners Service for Northern Ireland	Louisa Fee, Coroner
A coroner proposed by the Coroners' Society of England and Wales	Nicholas Shaw, Senior Coroner, Cumbria <b>Or</b> Mr James Newman, Assistant Coroner at Derbyshire County Council
Human Tissue Authority	Mr Mark Wrigley, Head of Regulation for the Post Mortem and Public Display sectors
Association of Anatomical Pathology Technology	Mr John Pitchers, Chair, Association of Anatomical Pathology Technology
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>