

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee

EST 1962

RCPATH President's newsletter – December 2022



Professor Mike Osborn
President, The Royal College
of Pathologists

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

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Website](#)

 [Instagram](#)

President's Message

Celebrating the College's 60th anniversary

This is my last newsletter for the year.

2022 has been an eventful year with the College celebrating its 60th Anniversary. There were many personal highlights during our Diamond Jubilee year but one that stands out was our [Open Day in September](#).

I would like to thank the College members and staff who made the year such a success. We have published a [webpage](#) dedicated to the people who took part in our 60th Anniversary celebrations.

Everyone involved contributed in different ways to the delivery of high-quality pathology services, research and innovation together with education and training.

Your College, Your Profession Member Engagement Tour

In the final three months of 2022, we have held seven events and in early December visited Belfast and Norwich. These events give me an invaluable opportunity to hear from members first hand. My November visit to Aberdeen was attended by trainees and Fellows representing a variety of specialties. You can find more about the visit on the [College website](#). Three further live events will be held in early 2023 in [Swansea](#), [Manchester](#) and [Bodelwyddan \(North Wales\)](#). These are bookable via [this link](#).

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to be involved in the discussion, the live events will be supported by several online meetings from February 2023. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions on how the College can better support you, please email us at mycollege@rcpath.org.

Pathology versus pandemics

You can read an article in [The Pathologist](#) with myself and College Fellow Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam in conversation about [how College members stepped up in the fight against COVID-19](#).

RCPATH 60th anniversary Scottish symposium

The Scottish symposium, organised by the College's Scotland Regional Council, was a great success. Thank you to everybody who came to Edinburgh to discuss the theme of 'What has pathology ever done for us?' It was a very enjoyable day and a great opportunity to highlight the work of the pathology community in Scotland.

New clinical trial with Air Ambulance carrying 'whole blood'

[A new clinical trial, SWIFT](#), co-led by College Fellow Dr Green, has started with Air Ambulance crews carrying 'whole blood' instead of separate red blood cells and plasma for the treatment of severely injured patients at risk of bleeding to death.

It is fantastic to see College Fellows from NHS Blood and Transplant working in partnership with colleagues at Air Ambulance and Ministry of Defence on the new trial.

The results from the trial have the potential to revolutionise how blood transfusion is provided in the treatment of civilian trauma accidents and for on battlefield injuries, through the transfusion of a single blood product.

Engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders

- We issued a [commented on the Autumn Statement](#) and the impact on the NHS. Recognition that a properly staffed workforce is the only way to deliver the best patient care is long overdue. We were one of the [many organisations](#) that called for a workforce plan, including how many staff will be needed to keep pace with demand alongside a commitment to the necessary funding.

- Prof Clare Verrill, a College Digital Pathology committee member, spoke at a Westminster Health Forum conference on [Next Steps for Digital Health and Social Care](#).

Statement on Immensa lab inquiry

The [UKHSA report](#) by staff in Immensa's Wolverhampton laboratory found errors in the reporting of PCR COVID-19 tests. The Immensa Lab inquiry illustrates the critical importance of accredited, high-quality clinical diagnostic pathology services led by appropriately qualified, registered personnel, using both internal and external quality assurance systems and processes. [You can read our full statement online](#).

Season's greetings

I would like to take this opportunity to offer all our members, colleagues and friends my warmest wishes for the season and for the New Year.

Professor Mike Osborn

President, The Royal College of Pathologists

E: michael.osborn@rcpath.org @mike4path

In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES
- DIAMOND JUBILEE
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- NEW PUBLICATIONS
- REGIONAL NEWS
- INTERNATIONAL
- 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

Trainees' Research Medal Awards 2022

The College Research Committee is still accepting application for the Trainees' Research Medal Awards for 2022. The Trainees' Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training. Full details of the submission process, eligibility criteria and application form are available on the [website](#).

New ISO 15189:2022 standard

The new standard has been jointly published by the College with the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and the Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine (ACB) in collaboration with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

The standard underlines the importance of continually improving quality standards. The added flexibility to allow for clinically justifiable variation to these standards is important to ensure that medical laboratories can strive towards and meet the needs of patients and users within a fully accredited framework, wherever they receive laboratory services.

LEPT instructional videos

There are a range of instructional videos as aids on how to navigate around the new LEPT system most effectively. From the [College website](#), LEPT users can log into the new LEPT system and access the video links for trainees and non-trainees. The video links are in the Alerts section on the LEPT homepage.

The LEPT system – Chemical Pathology, Oral Maxillofacial Pathology Training and Cellular Pathology

Trainees in the above specialties who have moved from the old LEPT system to the new LEPT system will soon have their training items migrated across too. Watch this space!

Public Engagement

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. To apply email publicengagement@rcpath.org and include your name, job title and specialty.

Save the date – National Pathology Week 2023

National Pathology Week (NPW) now takes place in June – the dates for next year are 19–25 June 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.

International

Become a Country Advisor in the Europe region

The Royal College of Pathologists has a global multidisciplinary membership, with 23% of its members currently based outside the UK. The International team invites 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.

International Pathology Day conference

On 1 November, the College held the first in-person hybrid International Pathology Day conference in three years. The conference marked the College's Diamond Jubilee year and was held in partnership with the British Society for Haematology and The Pathologist. We were pleased to welcome guest speaker, Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, as well as an inspiring line-up of other speakers and roundtable panellists. You can view the talks and roundtable [from our international virtual resources page.](#)

Get involved at the College

Chair vacancy – Death Investigation Committee

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.

What does the role entail?

The Death Investigations Committee exists to advise Council on matters concerning non-forensic post-mortems in the UK. Further details about the role can be found in the role description below.

How to apply

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the College website at: [Chair, Death Investigation Committee \(rcpath.org\)](#) and submit your application to Shelaine.Kissoon@RCPath.org by Friday 23 December 2022.

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.

Medical Examiner Annual Conference Report 2022

This [report](#) from the Medical Examiner Annual Conference 2022 summarises progress in the introduction of a statutory medical examiner service. It includes a strategic update from the Department of Health and Social Care on implementation and the work required to move towards this. The report also highlights the benefits of pilot medical examiner systems through case studies.

Consultation open for G190 Histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous lymphoma

[A consultation is currently open for the dataset G190 Histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous lymphoma](#). The closing date is 3 January 2023.

College conferences and symposia

[RCPath Veterinary Pathology School for trainees/residents- virtual training](#)

17 January 2022

6CPD Credits

The Royal College of Pathologists 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 of the programme is on the FRCPath programme, but those studying for ACVP, ECVCP, ECVI and ECVI exams may also find the programme of interest.

[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 training session – Virtual Training

Wednesday 7 December 2022

CPD credits: 6

Medical Examiner Face to Face Training – Virtual (rcpath.org)

Thursday 23 March 2023

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 or on 020 7451 6700.



MHRA consultation

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) is running a [public consultation](#) on how they communicate medicine and medical device safety information to healthcare professionals. They want members to have a say on how you would like to receive safety information from the MHRA and how we work together on our common goal of greater patient safety.

At home dry blood spot testing – NHS England project – short questionnaire

NHS England has a project underway to explore potential opportunities for diagnostics at home. As part of this, they are keen to research the possibility for at home dry blood spot testing. To that end, please could you answer the following questions and return answers to: england.home@nhs.net

1. Do you know of any at home dry blood spot testing that is being used in practice, including what technology is being used? By at home, we mean where patients are able to take the test themselves in their home and post the sample to a local laboratory. The patient and the patient's clinical team receive the results.
2. Are there analytical providers with the capability to handle dry blood spot samples? If yes, which ones and do they have capacity for analysing dry spot blood tests?

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](#)

10–11 January 2023

[BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

23–24 February 2023

[Janssen | GRAPPA UK Workshop Meeting 2023](#)

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](#)