



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



## President's e-newsletter – July 2019

### President's Messages of the Month

#### **Celebrating RCPATH Excellence Award Winners**

It was a privilege and delight to host the RCPATH Excellence Awards winners at the College's annual dinner last month. The winners were awarded for their contribution to education, patient safety, innovation in pathology practice and contribution to specialty. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the amazing contribution pathologists and colleagues make to patient care. The winners combine dedication and commitment, going beyond the day-to-day to improve the working lives of their colleagues and the health and care of patients. You [can read the citations](#) on the College website. We will be aiming to spread some of the examples of great innovations and practice as exemplar case studies.

#### **Devolved nation symposia and lab tours**

I was delighted to be part of the College's regional council symposia both in Northern Ireland and in Wales. Both events provided valuable insights into pathology services in the devolved nations with some spectacular science on show, some of it, including the spread of the D68 enterovirus, areas which are rapidly emerging pathology. I also had the opportunity to meet many wonderful trainees across many of our disciplines.

My recent lab tours have taken me to meet the fantastic pathology teams at St Thomas's Hospital in London and the Personalised Medicine Centre of Excellence at Belfast City Hospital. I have also been to Glasgow to visit the amazing reproductive sciences team who have extraordinary expertise in fertility and preimplantation genetic diagnosis through embryo biopsy.

#### **Blood cancers**

Lots of work and activity on blood cancers this month, including the All Party Parliamentary Group on Blood Cancer with MP Nic Dakin and many blood cancer charities. I also attended the Myeloma UK steering group meeting in Birmingham, and

in collaboration with them we have added a series of 14 nursing best practice guides to the eCPD app to help nurse learning in myeloma. For our work on early diagnosis, see below, we have asked for their support in our workforce and IT investment.

### **Early Cancer Diagnosis**

Learning from pathologists in many centres, across several nations has helped inform the specification for the roll out of Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDC) and Cancer Alliances in England, and we have worked hard to ensure that pathology is prominent in this, including a specific mention of several of our specialties in the current draft, I have also highlighted the need for blood cancer detection to be included. We will also take this opportunity to roll out a update in lab test training pack for primary practitioners and RDC staff and patients, based on the Lab Test Online resource in parallel with this programme.

### **The Doctors Download digital conversation**

The College is supporting *The Doctors Download* initiative. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, in partnership with the Professional Record Standards Body, has launched a UK wide online conversation, to engage the whole of the medical profession in a discussion about their digital experiences and expectations. The digital agenda in healthcare has the potential to improve the quality of patient care and doctors' working lives and environments. This study will help find out what is, and importantly what is not, working for doctors. You can take part [here](#).

### **The independent review of gross negligence manslaughter and culpable homicide for the GMC**

The review tackled issues that arose out of the death of Jack Adcock and the conviction of Dr Bawa-Garba for gross negligence manslaughter. It has sensible and important recommendations. The GMC accepted all recommendations within its remit, which is key for the future. The recommendations on expert witnesses are entirely in keeping with those in the joint work we have carried out with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in producing the guidance for health professionals acting as expert witnesses. This is reassuring and helpful.

### **Round-up**

- I joined Bowel Cancer UK to deliver a 10,000 signature petition to 10 Downing Street asking the government to commit to Lynch syndrome testing for all bowel cancer patients and their families. The College has worked alongside Bowel Cancer UK to address challenges facing people affected by bowel cancer for many years. We're delighted that in April 2019 Wales committed to a national system of testing all bowel cancer patients for Lynch syndrome in line with clinical guidelines.
- We recently responded to the interim NHS People's Plan which was published with the aim of addressing workforce challenges across the NHS. To follow up, I met Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement, who is leading on the plan, for a really good discussion about pathology specialties and the workforce. We're looking forward to working together on this and are also arranging a joint lab tour. We will continue to work with NHS England, NHS Improvement and Health Education England to press for the much needed support for the pathology workforce that our patients need and deserve.
- I had an opportunity to attend the launch of Evidence Week in parliament, organised by Sense about Science and hosted by Norman Lamb MP, Chair of

the Science and Technology committee. The event highlighted the opportunity for close collaboration between researchers, scientists and parliamentarians and the importance of evidence-based policy making.

- [Patient safety bulletin 7](#) has been launched, with very valuable learning, and is also available on the eCPD app for documenting your learning! Very useful for portfolios and for appraisal.

**Professor Jo Martin**  
**President, the Royal College of Pathologists**  
**E: [jo.martin@rcpath.org](mailto:jo.martin@rcpath.org) [@JoMartin\\_path](https://twitter.com/JoMartin_path)**



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

**In this issue:**

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES](#)

[COLLEGE NEWS](#)

[GET INVOLVED IN THE COLLEGE](#)

[PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#)

[NEW PUBLICATIONS](#)

[COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA](#)

[NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS](#)

[OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST](#)

## **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **Educational Update**

**Monday 4 November 2019**

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT**

**CPD Credits: TBC**

This free training event is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties but the aim is to engage infectious diseases, immunology and haematology specialties too. The main focus is to present an 'Educational Update' with an emphasis on credentialing, Shape of Training and the development of the new curricula. Please save the date.

### **International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) datasets consultation**

The ICCR draft datasets for Invasive melanoma - *Second edition update and Merkel cell carcinoma* are now available for review at [ICCR datasets consultation](#). The documents will be available for comments until Friday 9 August 2019.

### **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 travel and accommodation 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](#). Deadline is 5 pm on Monday 26 August 2019.

### **Trainee Research Medals 2019**

The RCPATH Research Committee has launched the 2019 Research Medal Awards for trainees. Applications are open until 5.00 pm on Friday 2 August 2019.

The medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training. Medals are awarded for research published in the specialties in the relevant year (1 July - 30 June).

Medals awarded are:

- A Gold Research Medal is awarded for the best research published.
- Specialty Research Medals are awarded to the best candidates in each of the major specialties of the College.

Full details of the submission process and eligibility criteria are available on the [College website](#):

### **Call for nominations for President and Northern Ireland Regional Chair**

Nominations are now open for Honorary Officer College positions to take effect from the College's Annual General Meeting in November.

The two Honorary Officer roles are:

- President (with a year as President-elect).
- Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair.

College fellows will receive an email with details of how to submit a nomination from the [Electoral Reform Services](#), who are managing the election on behalf of the College. If you have not received the email, please contact [elections@rcpath.org](mailto:elections@rcpath.org)

### **Become a RCPATH Consulting advisor**

[RCPATH Consulting](#) operates as part of RCPATH Trading Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the College. It provides expertise across all pathology specialties to NHS and private healthcare organisations as well as national bodies seeking an independent and authoritative view on how best to deliver pathology services.

RCPATH Consulting is currently looking to expand its current panel of advisers to ensure it has the right range of expertise to match its work. RCPATH Consulting Advisers are senior members of the College and the Institute for Biomedical Science who are appointed following open advertisement and interview. Advisers are paid for their time and any profits are gifted to the College. For more information about becoming an advisor and for the person specification and application form, please visit, [RCPATH Consulting](#).

### **Events @ No 6 at 6 Alie Street – sixth floor roof terrace**

British summer time is upon us and we have already hosted board meetings and evening receptions in our sixth floor Terrace Room. This space has two outdoor terraces providing excellent views across the iconic London skyline. Please visit the [Events @ No 6 website](#) or contact the team at [sales@eventsatno6.com](mailto:sales@eventsatno6.com) to receive discounts of up to 20% to hire the meeting and event spaces.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **Opportunity for Fellows to speak at undergraduate careers event in London**

We are recruiting enthusiastic volunteers to help inspire the next generation of biomedical, medical and veterinary undergraduates at our [Discover Pathology Careers](#) event on 9 November 2019 at the new College building in London as part of [National Pathology Week](#). We are inviting Fellows to pitch an idea for an interactive talk on their specialty by completing this [short online proposal form](#). We are looking for ideas for interactive talks that will bring current research and future advances to life for the undergraduate audience. Proposals that include lots of visuals and/or demos are very much encouraged! The deadline for submissions 31 July. The [draft programme](#) for the day includes one 30 - 35 minute interactive talk on: histopathology, haematology, clinical biochemistry/chemical pathology, medical microbiology and veterinary pathology. Please share the [event booking page](#) with undergraduates and encourage them to come along. Travel costs and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed to speakers.

### **Get ahead for National Pathology Week 2019: 4 - 10 November**

For this year's [National Pathology Week](#) (NPW) we're inviting members to consider exploring innovations big and small through events, activities and online posts. As always we welcome any pathology-related events in to the NPW programme. Relating your activities to innovation is not compulsory, but we hope it helps inspire a few creative events and ideas. Perhaps you have an idea for an event or activity that explores 'big' innovations such as current research and future applications in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, or you might want to celebrate smaller more 'everyday' innovations such as smart initiatives in pathology teams that have helped make a difference to the health of patients. Whatever you decide to do to celebrate NPW 2019, you can find lots of support and ideas in our [resources area](#). Please [get in touch](#) if you have an idea or question about getting involved.

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of peripheral neuroblastic tumours](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Neonatal death](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Postoperative deaths](#)

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### [Getting to Grips with Genomics workshop – 17 and 18 July: Genomics for Pathology Trainees](#)

**Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 July 2019**

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT**  
**CPD credits: TBC**

As genomic analysis becomes increasingly important in cancer diagnostics and precision medicine, there is a knowledge gap to fill in the clinical workforce. Supported by the College; CM-Path and Health Education England have linked with the US Training Residents in Genomics group to deliver a team-based learning programme developed to meet the training needs of pathologists. This will be combined with 'state-of-the-art' lectures on specific topics and an overview of the new NHS Genomic Medicine Service. There will be an opportunity to undertake a competency test following the workshop. This will be an interactive, hands-on, practical workshop that will empower you to embrace the exciting advances in molecular pathology.

There will be a small charge of £15 for the workshop. There are also 10 travel bursaries available for trainees to attend this workshop. If you would like to apply for a travel bursary, please email [cmpath@ncri.org.uk](mailto:cmpath@ncri.org.uk) explaining why you want to attend this meeting and what you hope to gain.

### **Getting to Grips with Genomics workshop: Training the Trainer, 17 July – morning session**

Molecular pathology is advancing rapidly and is a growing part of daily practice. An important part of being a consultant pathologist is educating trainees, formally and informally. This workshop is designed to equip consultants with the skills and tools to guide trainees through a Molecular Pathology Training Programme. It is aimed at TPDs and those active in education delivery to enable development of local and regional training sessions to fulfil the requirements of trainees. This workshop is a half a day session on the morning of the 17 July 2019. Please register your interest by emailing [helen.pitman@ncri.org.uk](mailto:helen.pitman@ncri.org.uk). There will be no charge for this event, but you will have to fund your own travel expenses.

### **Retired Fellows' Lunch**

The Retired Fellows' Lunch will take place on 17 September 2019. This lunch is open to all fellows formally registered with the College as retired. It will be held at the new College building at 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT. This is an opportunity for retired fellows to meet old friends and perhaps make new acquaintances. It follows on from the previous successful lunches. Tickets are priced at £40 for a three course lunch with wine. More details will be available shortly.

### **Digital Pathology: Best practice recommendations and validation**

**Friday 15 Nov 2019**

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT  
CPD credits: 6**

The aim of this event is to introduce the RCPATH best practice recommendations for digital pathology and explain digital pathology validation for primary diagnosis.

### **The Golden Hour Conference II - The pathology of traumatic injury**

**Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November 2019**

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT  
CPD credits: TBC**

The second Golden Hour Conference once again brings together clinicians and others who are passionate about transforming outcomes for injured patients. Building on the success of last year's event, the team will bring together local and international experts who will help define the path to novel diagnoses and interventions. It is increasingly recognised that the opportunity to intervene in potentially preventable trauma deaths occurs in the pre-hospital and early emergency room phase.

Increasingly, services are working much more closely with coroners and pathologists and this is transforming our understanding of why our patients die.

As an additional section this year, the day will explore the golden hour within the context of major incidents and multiple patient events; learning lessons of best practice from around the world.

### **Medical Examiners, Face-to-face training**

**Event dates below.**

Medical examiners will ensure accurate death certification across a local area, provide much-needed support for bereaved families and improve patient safety. Medical

examiners will be doctors registered with the GMC holding a current licence to practise. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to attend a face-to-face training day and complete mandatory e-learning modules.

The Royal College of Pathologists, the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, is providing the essential training which will equip you with the knowledge and skills you will need for this important role. The day will include short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. The training has been trialled with experienced medical examiners from pilot or early adopter sites.

A certificate will be awarded to provide evidence of completion of the face-to-face component of the medical examiner training. This training complements the e-learning which you must complete before attending this training. The College is inviting new medical examiners to join the Royal College of Pathologists. This is dependent on completion of this training and evidence of satisfactory completion of the e-learning modules. Important, it is necessary to stay for the entire day to receive a certificate of completion of this training. You must have completed all 26 core e-learning modules before attending the face-to-face training.

### **Medical Examiner face-to-face training session**

**Thursday 14 November 2019**

**CPD Credits: 6**

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT

## **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING**

### **Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) - Clinical lead for pathology (sub specialty cellular pathology)**

GIRFT is looking for a new clinical co-lead to work in the pathology workstream. The role offers an unique opportunity to make a difference to the specialty at a national level, working closely with other pathology GIRFT clinicians to take the lead in addressing variations.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 28 July 2019, and interviews will be held in London on Thursday 20 August 2019. For more information visit – [GIRFT](#).

### **Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Now – Peer reviewers wanted**

[Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Now](#) are looking for pathologists to help peer review patient information. This is an invaluable role whereby volunteers help to ensure that the information given to people affected by breast cancer is clinically accurate and user-friendly.

Reviewers are:

- usually asked to review fewer than six time a year
- given a minimum of two weeks to review
- free to decline any review request should it not be convenient.

If you would be interested in becoming a peer reviewer, please email Megan Stansfield at [publications@breastcancercare.org.uk](mailto:publications@breastcancercare.org.uk)

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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

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

- [UK MDS Forum Education Day](#) – 26 September 2019
- [UK Myeloma autumn forum day](#) – 7 November 2019
- [UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#) – 20 September 2019



