



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

RCPATH President's newsletter – June 2026



President's Message

Summer is here....

While many may welcome a spell of unusually warm weather, it poses significant challenges for health, for the delivery of care in NHS buildings that struggle to cope with high temperatures, and for our laboratories where sensitive analysers and assays are vulnerable to even small variations in heat.

Politics has also been heating up and we of course now know that we will have a new Prime Minister and a likely ministerial change at all levels, in the very near future.

This of course impacts many workstreams and even the publication of many important plans and guidance. Amongst these, the Long Term Workforce plan part 2 for the NHS in England is once again delayed, as is the Carter Review of Pathology Services.

[Giving evidence on personalised medicine and AI in the House of Lords](#)

On 16 June I was invited to give evidence with Dr Stephen Harden President of The Royal College of Radiologists, to the House of Lords Science & Technology

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Select Committee, as part of their inquiry into 'Innovation in the NHS: Personalised medicine & AI'. This followed [written evidence submitted by the College](#) and was a great opportunity to engage with the Committee in greater detail.

During the evidence session, I highlighted some of the opportunities and challenges of adopting new technologies within pathology. Whilst there are definite benefits in terms of productivity and efficiency in adopting these technologies, they must not replace 'the pathologist in the loop' of diagnosis, particularly in complex cases. [You can view the evidence session here.](#)

KOHN Lecture

It was a privilege to give the RCPATH Kohn lecture at the Pathological Society/BDIAP meeting in Manchester on the 25th of June 2025. My topic was the future of pathology, where I highlighted that pressures on services, increasing demand and limited capacity, would need much investment in IT, Digital, AI, automation, advanced roles and of course workforce, if services were to have any chance of meeting demand.

Annual Global AI conference

I was pleased to be able to attend the [Royal College of Radiologists and NHS 2nd Annual Global AI Conference](#). The conference is designed to help healthcare professionals navigate this transition and gain the practical insights to optimise diagnostic workflows, enhance reporting quality, and strengthen quality assurance.

I am speaking at a roundtable that will seek to develop a clinical consensus view on the safe and effective path to working with diagnostic AI across different medical specialties. The roundtable will bring together expert national perspectives on the clinical, and system-level considerations that will shape this transition.

Professor Sarah Coupland, President Elect, will be also speaking on 'Utilisation of AI in diagnostic pathology and multi-disciplinary team meetings.

RCPATH Achievement Award winners 2026

I was delighted to present the RCPATH Achievement Awards to the fantastic and worthy winners at the College annual dinner.

The awards recognise teams and individuals who have achieved above and beyond in pathology. [You can read more about the winners on the College website.](#)

I would also like to thank Roche diagnostics, Eprexia and Source LDPATH for providing sponsorship for this year's Achievement Awards.

Meetings and events

I was delighted to speak at the [North West London Pathology Symposium: Strong Foundations, Bold Future](#) on 11 June. My presentation focused on the challenges facing pathology services and highlighted the bold decisions that must be taken to ensure pathology can keep up capacity to meet future demands.

Prostate cancer

The Department for Health and Social Care has announced a £20 million package to expand prostate cancer research and treatment. This includes extending the [TRANSFORM screening trial](#) to all eligible Black men, and the introduction of England's first targeted prostate cancer screening programme.

The screening programme is in line with the recommendations of the National Screening Committee which [we responded to](#) when their initial decision was published.

Stakeholder engagement

Prof Peter Johnston, Vice President for Workforce and Corporate Engagement,

joined [MSD](#) at their parliamentary event, '75% of people surviving cancer from 2035: how do we get there?' where he discussed areas including the RCPATH response to the national cancer plan and College workforce survey data.

The College has joined a review, requested by the Department of Health and Social Care, to look at opportunities to [reform cancer multidisciplinary team \(MDT\) working](#).

Professor Marta Cohen, Vice President for Learning, participated in a conference organised by the Royal College of Radiologists and Macmillan Cancer Support. The aim is to shape a programme of work to drive improvement in cancer MDT meetings and, ultimately, better patient care.

Nominations open for College Honorary Officer and Council member roles

Nominations are now open for a range of College leadership roles:

- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Vice President (x3)
- Elected General Member of Council (x3)
- English Regional Representative
Member of Council: England North
- English Regional Representative
Member of Council: England South

My time as a College Officer has shown me just how much dedicated members can achieve when they come together to shape the future of our profession.

These roles provide a unique opportunity to influence the College's direction, champion the interests of members and contribute to improving patient care through pathology. I would strongly encourage anyone considering standing for election to take that step.

We encourage nominations from members across all specialties, regions and career stages. Eligibility criteria, role descriptions and nomination information are available via the Civica election portal.

- [Honorary Officer roles](#)
- [Council member roles](#)

Look out for nomination emails from Civica.
Nominations close at 12 noon BST on 3 July 2026

The King's Birthday Honours List 2026

I would like to offer my congratulations to the College Fellows who have been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours.

- Professor Simon John Hollingsworth, Vice-President and Global Franchise Head of Immune Oncology Bispecifics, AstraZeneca. For services to Biomedical Research and Medicine Development. Commander of the OBE.
- Professor Stephen Jolles
Consultant Immunologist,
Immunodeficiency Centre for Wales.
For services to Immunology and Rare Diseases, OBE
- Professor Parveen Kumar,
Professor Emerita of Medicine and Education, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London. For services to Global Medical Education and Health. Knights Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire
- Dr Becki Lawson, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Zoology Zoological Society of London. For services to Wildlife Health. MBE
- Dr Andrew David Mumford,
Emeritus Professor of Genomic

Medicine, University of Bristol. For services to Genomic Medicine. MBE

- Debra Jayne Padgett. Pathology Network Operational Lead and Clinical Pathology Lead, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. For services to Biomedical Science in the NHS. British Empire Medal.
- Dr Lakshminarayan Rao Ranganath Trustee and Co-Founder, Alkaptonuria Society. For services to People with Alkaptonuria. MBE.
- Prof Ian Stuart Young, Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health. For services to Health Services Research and Development, and to Health Education, CBE.

Dr Bernie Croal
President, The Royal College of Pathologists
X: [@RCPath](https://twitter.com/RCPath)

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A PDF version of this newsletter is available at

[RCPath newsletters](#)

Working for members

[New consultation open for UK SMI S 16: Postmortem Microbiology](#)

This consultation is open from 23/06/2026 to 14/07/2026

UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMIs) are a comprehensive set of evidence-based guidelines developed to standardise and harmonise microbiological practices across clinical and public health laboratories in the United Kingdom.

We are inviting stakeholders, laboratory professionals, clinicians, and all interested parties to participate in the public consultation for UK SMI S 16: Postmortem Microbiology.

This is a newly developed SMI, representing the first standard dedicated specifically to postmortem microbiology within the UK SMI framework. Its development reflects growing recognition of the clinical, public health, and forensic importance of postmortem microbiological investigations, and the need for consistent, high-quality guidance in this area.

Given its novelty and evolving nature, this document is necessarily an initial framework. Its strength and future development depend on input from those working across pathology, microbiology, coronial services, and related disciplines.

Please find further information on submitting your response here: [UK SMI Consultations](#)

College calls for antenatal screening for hepatitis C virus

The College supported inclusion of [screening for hepatitis C virus \(HCV\) in the UK national antenatal screening programme](#) in its response to the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) consultation.

In the context of HCV, a key purpose of screening is enabling identification and appropriate follow-up of exposed infants, given the high cure rates now achievable from early childhood. The response, prepared by the Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Specialty Advisory Committee, highlights significant developments in policy, evidence and practice since the last review in 2018. It suggests universal screening implementation with a focus on identification

of maternal infection to ensure infant follow-up pathways and linkage to postnatal treatment services. Read the full response. [College calls for antenatal screening for hepatitis C virus](#)

RCPATH Foundation Fellowships – For UK Foundation Doctors

UK Foundation doctors with an interest in pathology are encouraged to apply for one of the 25 RCPATH Foundation Fellowships, a national scheme from the College designed to support early exposure to the specialty. The fellowships are awarded to Foundation doctors undertaking a pathology rotation between 1 August 2026 and 31 July 2027.

The scheme is open to all UK Foundation doctors who undertake a Foundation post that includes a placement in a pathology specialty during their rotation.

Foundation Fellows benefit from:

- Priority access to RCPATH career and taster events
- Opportunities to present at national meetings
- Free attendance at relevant educational events (subject to study leave)
- Involvement in regional RCPATH activities and symposia
- Science communication training and participation in National Pathology Week
- Formal recognition with an RCPATH Foundation Fellowship certificate

This is a great opportunity to strengthen your portfolio, gain insight into pathology careers, and build a national professional network during your Foundation Programme. Closing date: 11:59pm, Monday 13 July 2026

Eligible applicants should submit a CV and a short (250-word) supporting statement outlining their interest in pathology and details of their placement. [Find out more and apply via the RCPATH website](#)

Results and recommendations from our 2024-2025 LEPT satisfaction survey

The College undertook a survey to measure satisfaction from users with the Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (LEPT) system. It was the second formal survey since the ePortfolio's introduction in 2009, but the first to include trainers and assessors. A big thank you to those trainees, trainers and assessors who responded to the survey - your feedback has helped us immensely.

The report is available at: [Results and recommendations from our 2024-2025 LEPT satisfaction survey](#)

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) – Haematolymphoid tumours dataset consultations

The ICCR invites you to review the draft 1st edition datasets listed below. Access the documents and consultation at the [ICCR Datasets Under Consultation page](#) and submit your comments by Friday 10 July 2026.

- Lymphoid malignancies
- Myeloid and mixed or ambiguous lineage neoplasms
- Plasma cell neoplasms

The Royal College of Pathologists' Science Communication Prize

The [RCPath Science Communication Prize](#) is now open to undergraduates, foundation doctors and pathology trainees, to recognise excellence in science communication throughout the year.

There are 2 categories: Trainee, for pathology trainees; and Undergraduate, for UK undergraduates and foundation doctors. The winner of each category will be awarded £500 and will be invited to accept their award at the College's New Fellows Ceremony, where it will be presented by representatives of Sonic Healthcare UK who sponsor the prize.

The closing date for the 2026 competition is 23:59 on Monday 27 July. Please pass on details of the competition to any students, foundation doctors or trainees that you know of who are involved in public engagement activities.

End-to-end quality assurance in the era of digital interoperability

12:30pm, Wednesday 1 July 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self credited)

As digital pathology momentum continues to grow it has never been more important to measure, report, track and, where possible, correct sources of variable quality across the whole modern workflow, in order to easier facilitate and consistently validate digital adoption. The safety and scalability of the lab of the future, including use of trustworthy AI and imaging technology, is reliant on the robustness of quality and interconnectivity standards in the labs of today. This webinar will explore current methodologies with the potential for creating end-to-end, vendor-agnostic quality assurance environments based on interoperable solutions and standards to support establishing and scaling digital pathology deployments.

The speakers will be Prof David Brett, Chief Scientific Officer at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Quality Theme Lead for NPIC; Dr John Groth, pathologist at Endeavour Health, Illinois; Dr Soufiane Zakaria, CEO of Algoscope; and Rick Salmon, CEO of PathQA.

The webinar is being delivered in partnership with our corporate member, PathQA, and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Save the date: in-person event on AI and digital histopathology

RCPath will be hosting an in-person event on AI and digital histopathology at the College on Thursday 4 February 2027. The event will be open to all histopathology members. Further information will follow in due course but please put the date in your diaries if you think this may be of interest.

National Pathology Week 2026 theme announced.

[National Pathology Week \(NPW\)](#) 2026 will run from 2 to 8 November and will have the theme 'Welcome to the Lab'. Chosen by the Pathology Alliance, a group of 10 organisations, we hope that this positive and inviting theme will inspire our members and their teams to get involved in NPW 2026. This could be a lab tour, an information stand in your hospital, an online event, or just a social media post or two supporting NPW. If you are planning an event (online or in person), please [register it on our website](#) so we can share it on our [public events calendar](#). We have a limited quantity of branded materials and information booklets available for event

organisers to order for free – you can do this [here](#). If you have any questions or ideas about NPW, please contact the public engagement team on publicengagement@rcpath.org

CPD Returns Reminder

The College's 2025/2026 CPD year has concluded. Completing your CPD return is an important part of supporting your [revalidation](#), so please remember to complete and [submit your CPD return here when you're ready](#).

If you have any questions or need help with the process, our Member Engagement and Support Team will be happy to assist:

020 7451 6720

cpd@rcpath.org

The Pathology Portal

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is collaborating with the Pathology Portal to develop new undergraduate resources in response to the increased emphasis on public health and infectious disease content within the medical licensing assessment. This marks the start of a focused programme of resource development, with initial materials now beginning to be uploaded to the Portal to support learners and educators alike.

If you've used the Pathology Portal, we would be grateful if you could take a moment to share your feedback [here](#).

If you have any questions or are interested in seeing how the Pathology Portal can be utilised to deliver teaching, please get in touch with the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org and the team will be happy to provide a demonstration. For more information, or to sign up, visit the [College website](#)

Get involved at the College

Honorary Librarian and Archivist

The College invites applications for the honorary role of Librarian and Archivist, following the decision of our current postholder to step down after many years of dedicated service. We are extremely grateful for the care, expertise and enthusiasm that have been brought to the role over that time in maintaining and promoting the College's valuable collection of pathology books and historical material.

The Honorary Librarian and Archivist provides oversight of the College's library and heritage collections, helping to ensure their preservation, accessibility and continued relevance to members and trainees. The role, based out of the College's London Alie Street premises, includes advising on the development and care of the collection, responding to occasional enquiries, and supporting wider engagement with the history and practice of pathology. We anticipate that the commitment will amount to approximately 1 day per month.

[Applications can be made via our website](#) before the closing date of 5pm on Monday 13 July.

College courses and events

Veterinary Pathology Spring webinar series

The RCPATH has a long and distinguished history in veterinary pathology. Membership and Fellowship examinations in veterinary pathology have been conducted since the 1970s. Today, Fellowship of the RCPATH continues to carry significant professional recognition, with Fellows acknowledged as specialists by both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI).

We are delighted to present the RCPATH Veterinary Pathology Spring Webinar Series, a programme designed to engage and educate pathologists, residents, specialists, veterinary surgeons, and undergraduate students across all specialties. The series will feature sessions on anatomical pathology, clinical pathology, and microbiology, covering topics of current relevance and interest. These include large animal disease surveillance, with a focus on emerging viral threats such as Bluetongue virus, wildlife forensic pathology, lipases, immunohistochemistry and pathology findings associated with telemetry devices and therapeutic oligonucleotides. The series will conclude with a dedicated discussion of the RCPATH Fellowship examinations in veterinary pathology/microbiology, offering guidance and insight for those considering this qualification.

RCPATH Retired Fellows' Luncheon 2026

Thursday, 8 October 2026

The RCPATH would like to invite our retired Members, along with a guest, to the Retired Fellows' Luncheon on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 12.15pm for a drinks reception followed by a 1.00pm lunch. The lunch is to be held in the Terrace Room at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT.

This is an opportunity for retired fellows to meet old friends and perhaps make new acquaintances, and follows from the successful lunches held previously.

Should you wish to attend, tickets are priced at £65 per person, for drinks reception and lunch. Please note that places are limited.

The recognition, assessment, and management of appendiceal mucinous neoplasms

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

- Definitions
- Epidemiology
- Clinical, Radiological & Gross Features
- Histopathological Assessment
- Staging
- Molecular findings
- Essentials for the report
- Differential diagnoses
- Management
- Prognosis
- Key Takeaways.

Intended target audience: General pathologists, specialists and trainees that are involved in the reporting of appendiceal specimens.

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited). This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series – Cervical spine injury](#)

Wednesday, 18 November 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series: Update on the Medical Examiner Service - 2 years on](#)

Wednesday, 9 December 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars series

Following some excellent sessions on medical liver disease in 2025, and based on feedback received from delegates, the UK Liver Pathology Group in conjunction with the Royal College of Pathologists are pleased to announce the continuation of our virtual liver pathology bitesize series. Given the variability in exposure to liver pathology during training across the UK, some of the cases discussed will include FRCPath style cases, but also cover entities which pathologists may come across regularly as part of their working practice. There are six webinars which take place during 2026, which this year will be focussing on lesional liver pathology, and will aim to return to medical liver disease in 2027.

Each 1 hour webinar session will be hosted by the UKLPG resident representatives, and presented by an expert in the field of liver pathology. We plan to cover a different theme in each session, including case based discussions in addition to hints and tips in how to approach the cases. There will also be the opportunity for delegates to pose questions to the speakers via the Q&A function. Where possible, we aim to provide attendees with the opportunity to view the digital slides before each session. **This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.**

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Frozen sections in Liver Pathology](#)

Wednesday, 1 July 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Cholangiocarcinoma](#)

Wednesday, 2 September 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars - Hepatic cysts](#)

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

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. 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 - Virtual

Wednesday, 23 September 2026

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 Examiners Officer (Virtual training)

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

CPD credits: 6

Regional news

RCPATH Wales Symposium 2026

This is a free and in-person only event.

Date: Tuesday 8 September 2026

Venue: Wales Genomic Health Centre, Centre, Cardiff Edge Life Sciences Park, Longwood Drive, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 7YU

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Wales. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of

the great developments happening in Wales. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and hear about the College's work in Wales.

RCPATH Northern Ireland Symposium 2026

This is a free and in-person only event.

Date: Tuesday 20 October 2025

Venue: Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

Time: 09:30 – 14:00 (including lunch, networking opportunities and followed by Trainee Forum with the College President)

Further details to follow.

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President Dr Bernie Croal and find out what the College does in Northern Ireland.

New publications

[G079 Dataset for histopathological reporting of carcinomas and borderline tumours of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and peritoneum](#)

Other events of interest

02 July 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

02-03 July 2026

[Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service \(HMDS\) Course](#)

03 July 2026

[Northern Myeloid Update Day](#)

08 July 2026

[Antimicrobial-resistant Gram-negative bacteria: impact and interventions \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

08 July 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Hot Topics Webinar Series 2026](#)

09-10 July 2026

[Post Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation \(HSCT\) Complications and Graft-versus-Host Disease \(GvHD\) Preceptorship 2026](#)

15 July 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

18-19 August 2026

Computational Pathology Fundamentals - For more information, please contact: education@diagnexia.com.

20-21 August 2026

[The Fifth Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2026](#)

07 September 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

07-28 September 2026

[Lymphoma Management](#)

09 September 2026

[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Partners - Managing infection risk from hospital sinks and drains \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

17-19 September 2026

[Paediatric Pathology Society \(PPS\) Meeting](#)

21-25 September 2026

[Gynaepathology virtual week long course](#)

22 September 2026

[Post International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis \(ISTH\) & American Society of Haematology \(ASH\) Headlines 2026](#)

24-26 September 2026

[XLV Symposium of the International Society of Dermatopathology](#)

25 September 2026

[The Wessex and Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Virtual Course](#)

29 September 2026

[9th South West Stem Cell Transplant Day](#)

06 October 2026

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's \(BSAC\) Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing \(AST\) Hot Topic Webinar Series 2026](#)

07 October 2026

[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Partners - Surface disinfection state of the art \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

08 October 2026

[UK Complete Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia \(CLL\) Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#)

09-10 October 2026

[Irish Society of Surgical Pathologists \(ISSP\) 2026](#)

04 November 2026

[Behaviour change and Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

20 November 2026

[BAUP Annual Meeting with Urothology EQA Circulation](#)

09 December 2026

[Dry surface biofilms: implication for Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) \(Insight Webinar\)](#)

Our full programme of CPD events can be found on the members' [website](#).

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