

The views expressed in the statements are the views of the candidate and not those of the College

Professor Roger Feakins

President

Why have a College President? We need a leader, a facilitator, and a supportive voice - a person who respects tradition while encouraging new ideas.

Why consider me? I am an NHS consultant histopathologist and honorary professor with extensive and genuinely balanced experience (including FRCPI, FRCPath, and a research MD). I am determined and resilient, have a record of completion of tasks, and can communicate clearly and honestly.

Quality improvement is a priority. My contributions include authorship of national and European guidelines/standards (RCPath, ICCR, BSG, ECCO, NICE), leadership of a new histopathology committee in a European organisation, Chair for Digestive Diseases in the European Society of Pathology, multiple RCPath roles over several years (gastrointestinal adviser, Council member, national committee work), and support for patient-focused groups (e.g. IBD UK).

Recent educational output includes creation of a new international pathology update, delivery of invited lectures in the UK, Europe, and the US, and editorship of a new pathology textbook. I contribute consistently to clinical research.

In these roles I interact with a broad spectrum of individuals, hearing their concerns.

A few aims:

College profile:

- “Pathology” is a first class group of disciplines, of vital importance to the NHS. I would promote this view at all levels, from Ministers to schoolchildren.
- I would encourage maximum participation in the College, especially by younger consultants and by specialists who have little involvement but also by anyone with new ideas. This too would strengthen pathology.
- Short surveys of members’ views would be informative.

Education/learning:

- I would encourage an ambitious approach to the organisation of international educational conferences. The UK is an excellent location for such events.
- The College website is ideal for hosting an interactive image atlas, facilitating sharing of ideas on a national platform. I would promote this actively.
- Specialties without their own UK society might benefit from support from the College for a formal grouping.
- A better understanding of laboratory work by clinicians would have advantages. A fixed time in pathology departments for medical students could be helpful.
- RCPath datasets are excellent. Support for timely updates and for production of new datasets is important.

Workforce:

- Specialist reporting, particularly in histopathology, has developed inconsistently in recent years. Further college guidance could be useful.

The views expressed in the statements are the views of the candidate and not those of the College

- Precision when determining workloads is difficult. Broad assessment of the expectations of pathologists, Trusts, and budget-holders could help optimise both productivity and morale.
- Recruitment has improved recently. Active support from the College remains essential to maintain this and to minimise early retirement.
- Flexibility regarding in-house activity, e.g. incentivisation, could help reduce outsourcing from the NHS.
- Biomedical scientists who become advanced practitioners can complement pathologists' roles usefully. Expansion of this process is important.
- Additional joint appointments between Trusts could ameliorate some of the potentially destabilising effects of clinical reconfigurations, facilitating the continuing pursuit of pathologists' specialty interests.

If you seek a President with determination, enthusiasm, experience, and a focus on quality, please consider this application.

Professor Roger Feakins

April 2020

Word Count: 482