



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

## RCPATH President's newsletter – August 2025



### President's Message

I hope you have all managed to get some time away from work this summer, either a well-earned holiday or even some time at home relaxing in the good weather.

Healthcare carries on, of course. While recent figures would suggest more patients are being seen across the NHS, notably in community diagnostic centres, it was nevertheless disappointing to see NHS waiting lists for England edge upwards again. This highlights the huge challenges that exist and the important role that pathology plays in resolving them.

The College continues to develop its own Pathology Plan, which will highlight the issues facing pathology and the likely solutions needed so that the rest of healthcare can benefit. Input from our specialist committees is currently being sought, while data and commentary from our workforce spotlights will be invaluable. Watch this space...

### The Leng Review

The Leng Review has delivered a series of recommendations on the future of physician assistants (PAs), but the conflict of opinions on this has not gone away. Implementation of recommendations has now been held up, awaiting

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judicial review, which leaves existing PAs, clinical services and university courses in limbo.

### **International Liaison of Pathology Presidents**

I was delighted to attend this annual meeting of presidents from pathology colleges and associations from around the world, wonderfully hosted this year in Kuala Lumpur by our Malaysian colleagues. 2 days of discussion, sharing and networking demonstrated common challenges around workforce, IT standardisation, digital pathology and AI.

I was also able to deliver a talk at the parallel International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, whose theme was Artificial Intelligence. Reliability, quality and affordability were common themes coming out. I also took the opportunity to meet and speak to many College fellows working across Malaysia, as well as catching up with other colleagues and fellows in Singapore, enroute back to London.

### **How safe are health tests on UK supermarket shelves?**

The [\*British Medical Journal\*](#) reported on new studies that suggest some commercially available health tests are inaccurate and unsuitable for public use. In the article, I raised concerns around quality, regulation and appropriateness, commenting that: “there are significant risks to patients when poor quality tests are carried out inappropriately, with both false reassurance and unnecessary consequences for the NHS to repeat tests or take additional action.” The story was also covered by the BBC, Telegraph, Independent and Sun.

In addition, I also met Joseph Burt, Head of Diagnostics and General Medical Devices at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), to discuss this issue. He confirmed that MHRA has been very active and is looking to develop regulation in this area in the near future. While this may improve quality aspects, there is also much work needed to ensure testing is appropriate.

### **Workforce Census 2025: Morale and wellbeing**

Our latest [workforce census spotlight](#) highlights how workforce shortages and increasing clinical demand, without adequate investment, is adversely affecting the morale and wellbeing of the pathology workforce. We looked at key wellbeing determinants, from burnout indicators to the quality of facilities and development opportunities for staff.

These are key areas we focus on in our advocacy work. Our next spotlight, looking at pathologists in training, including residents and clinical scientists, will follow in September.

### **College submission to the Men's Health Strategy for England**

The [RCPath submission](#) to the Government's Men's Health Strategy for England calls for investment to ensure pathology services can cope with demand to meet the efforts to improve men's health. This is vital to improve outcomes for men.

Our evidence focused on the following areas:

- the pathology workforce
- improving men's health in prostate cancer
- improving men's health in cardiovascular disease.

### **The NHS-Coronial Sudden Unexplained Death pathway**

A new pathway is being rolled out in England, following a successful pilot, with the aid of the British Heart Foundation. The NHS-Coronial Sudden Unexplained Death pathway links the Coroner Offices with the Inherited Cardiac Conditions services that already exist within the NHS.

The College [Death Investigation Committee](#) and the [UK Cardiac Pathology Network](#) have been working on raising awareness of this project.

**Dr Bernie Croal**

**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

**X: [@RCPath](#)**

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A PDF version of this newsletter is available at  
[RCPATH newsletters](#)

## Working for members

### **International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) – skin dataset consultation**

The ICCR invites you to review the 2 draft skin datasets listed below. Access the documents and consultation at the [ICCR Datasets Under Consultation page](#) and submit your comments by Friday 26 September 2025.

- Merkel cell carcinoma (2nd edition).
- Invasive melanoma (3rd edition).

### **MHRA health institution exemption survey**

College members have been invited by the MHRA to complete a [short survey](#) of their experiences of the health institution exemption. This follows on from the Government's 10-Year Health Plan for England and the Life Sciences Sector Plan, together which aim to embed innovative technology in care and deliver it closer to where people live.

The deadline for completing the questionnaire is 11:59pm Monday 15 September 2025.

### **RCPATH welcomes new corporate member, Source LDPATH**

The College is working in partnership with industry leaders to support pathologists and, ultimately, improve patient care. We work with industry in a variety of ways, including joint educational webinars, joint events and publications, and through our [corporate membership scheme](#). We are delighted to welcome our newest corporate member, [Source LDPATH](#), and look forward to working together.

### **Diagnostics as a cornerstone of the UK National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance**

**12:30pm, Thursday 11 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains a global healthcare priority, as it risks effective management of acute infections, cancer care and chronic disease management. Join us to hear an overview of the diagnostic commitment in the UK National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance from Amelia Worley (DHSC).

Following this, Dr Luke Moore will explore the gaps in our policy, research and clinical practice to combat this threat, and consider approaches for collaborative solutions to optimising diagnostics for AMR. The webinar is being delivered in partnership with bioMérieux, and will last approximately 1 hour. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

### **Enhancing patient care through AI-driven digital pathology**

**12:30pm, Tuesday 30 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Join us for this webinar, which focuses on the exciting advancements in AI-driven digital pathology. We believe this is a critical area for discussion, particularly how it can enable high-volume, high-quality scanning and, ultimately, enhance patient care through rapid and accurate diagnoses. Specifically, we feel that the EYE-CAN-AID study serves as a powerful and highly relevant example to illustrate the practical impact and benefits of these technologies.

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

### **Educational Update 2025 meeting**

**10:00am, Friday 8 November 2025**

This annual meeting will be held remotely between 10:00am to 12:00pm. The theme is Future of Training, and the keynote speaker is Professor Geoff Smith, Interim Medical Director, Education Reform. This event is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and medical virology. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend.

### **RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective Small Grant Scheme**

Applications are now open for the RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective Small Grant Scheme. Established to mark the College's Diamond Jubilee in 2022, this initiative was developed in collaboration with RCPATH and its partnering specialist societies.

This scheme offers up to £1,000 in funding to support undergraduate medical and veterinary students undertaking electives in pathology disciplines. Electives can be clinical or research-based and conducted anywhere in the world.

A minimum of at least £500 of the grant must be allocated to travel and subsistence costs. The remainder can be used to cover project-related expenses, such as consumables or other student-related costs, appropriate for the project.

**Deadline for applications:** Tuesday 30 September 2025

**Notification of successful applicants:** November 2025

**Find out more and apply via the College [website](#).**

## **Get involved in the College**

### **Future Medical Workforce Project (Scotland)**

Doctors in Scotland are invited to contribute to the Scottish government's [Future Medical Workforce](#) project, launched in August 2025. This project will gather feedback from doctors, residents and senior clinicians to help shape reform in NHS training, recruitment and workforce planning over the next 15–20 years.

Focus groups are being held to help the government better understand the current pressures facing the profession and how best to respond to the challenges of delivering care.

This will form the first phase of the project, with a final report being published in autumn, setting out key insights and recommendations. The second phase, beginning in January 2026, will focus on reform, improving recruitment and the redesigning of medical education.

To attend a focus group, [sign up here](#).

### **Recruitment**

We could not function without the dedication of our members and supporters who take up volunteer roles. Our volunteers actively contribute to our collective mission to advance the science and practice of pathology, and to deliver the best patient care possible.

Applications are now invited from fellows for posts of the Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales Regional Councils, and many other roles. You can find further information about the roles and application process via the following links:

- [Member, Northern Ireland Regional Council](#) (Deadline: 12.00pm on Monday 8 September 2025)
- [Member, Scotland Regional Council](#) (Deadline: 12.00pm on Monday 8 September 2025)
- [Member, Wales Regional Council](#) (Deadline: 12.00pm on Monday 8 September 2025)
- [Chair, Joint Medical Microbiology & Medical Virology Specialty Advisory Committee](#) (Deadline: 5.00pm on Monday 25 August 2025).

### **Pathology Portal**

We're marking the [3rd anniversary of the Pathology Portal](#), which has become a vital free educational platform. Following a successful email campaign, the Pathology Portal has had lots of contact from individuals keen to get involved as editors across various specialties. The team would still love to hear from you, whether you are currently in training, or looking to use the Pathology Portal to deliver an EQA or training session.

The Pathology Portal currently hosts more than 6,700 resources and is being accessed by almost 6,000 users. With exams and the new trainee welcome day, this is always a busy time of year for the Portal and it's great to hear your feedback on how the Pathology Portal has made a difference.

Please get in touch with the team at [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org) and, for more information and to sign up, visit the [College website](#).

### **Trainees' Research Medal Awards 2025: Call for Submissions**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Trainees' Research Medal Awards 2025, recognising outstanding research by pathologists and scientists in training. This prestigious award is open to all trainees, scientists, oral pathologists, and veterinary pathologists employed in a suitable specialty training or appropriate research/academic posts during the year the research was published or accepted in a peer-reviewed journal.

To apply, simply submit your application along with your research paper. Full submission details, eligibility criteria, and the application form are available on the [College website](#).

### **Apply to be a Portfolio Pathway Assessor**

If you are interested in becoming involved with the College, becoming a Portfolio Pathway Assessor is a good way to do so. The Portfolio Pathway Assessors determine whether or not each Portfolio Pathway applicant meets the knowledge, skills and experience required to practise as a specialist in the UK for their specialty. Assessors will either recommend applicants for entry to the Specialist Register or outline what more needs to be done to meet the standard. Training and ongoing support will be provided, and assessors can self-accredit for CPD points for each Portfolio Pathway evaluation they undertake.



A role description and further information is available on the [College website](#). If you would like to apply, please send an email outlining how you meet the person specification, along with an abbreviated CV, to [training@rcpath.org](mailto:training@rcpath.org).

## Regional news

### **RCPath Scotland webinar series: Patient Centric Sampling (1CPD point – self credited)**

**Date:** Friday 5 September 2025

**Time:** 12.30–1.30pm

This webinar will be hosted online via Zoom.

This talk will explore the use of capillary sampling in a learning disability patient population. This provides reasonable adjustment to access phlebotomy without the need for invasive and resource-intensive desensitisation processes in this population. The process is very much face-to-face – the opposite of our constant drive to more automation, more remote, virtual patient interfaces. This is where patient-centric sampling really takes on its true meaning – sampling at the right place, at the right time and in the right way for that patient.

### **RCPath Northern Ireland Symposium 2025 (3 CPD credits)**

This is a free and in-person only event.

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 October 2025

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

**Time:** 09:30–1:00pm (followed by lunch and trainee forum)

The Royal College of Pathologists invites you to join us for the RCPath Northern Ireland Symposium 2025 – a gathering of distinguished voices in pathology and medicine, featuring insights on molecular discoveries, screening advancements, immunology and more.

Highlights include:

- welcome remarks from Dr Gareth McKeeman and Professor Sir Michael McBride
- an update from the President, Dr Bernie Croal, on the College's work in Northern Ireland
- talks by leading experts, including Professor Mary Frances McMullin, Dr Claire Hennell and much more
- a special Trainee Forum with the RCPath President from 2:30pm to 4:00pm
- complimentary lunch served at 1:00pm in the lobby area.

We encourage all healthcare professionals, trainees, and students with an interest in pathology to attend. We look forward to welcoming you.



## International news

### **Enabling AI Workflows in Pathology**

**14.00, Wednesday 10 September 2025**

The International team is delivering a free webinar on 'Enabling AI workflows in pathology'. This webinar will provide an introduction into AI in pathology, demystifying key concepts without requiring a technical background. Follow [this link](#) to register.

### **International Pathology Day virtual conference**

**09.45–14.35, Wednesday 5 November 2025**

Join us at our virtual conference as we celebrate the vital contributions of pathology professionals around the world. This year's theme, 'The global pathology workforce', highlights the dedication and expertise of pathologists and laboratory scientists who are at the heart of healthcare systems across the world.

We are delighted to welcome Jim Campbell, Director of Health Workforce at the World Health Organization, who will open the event in conversation with Professor Peter Johnston, Vice President for Workforce and Corporate Services.

This special event will be chaired by the President of the Royal College of Pathologists, Dr Bernie Croal, and is sponsored and hosted in partnership with the [British Society for Haematology](#) and [Diagnexia](#).

The event will focus on the following areas:

- tackling the global pathology workforce shortage
- digital pathology as a scalable solution
- aligning qualifications and training across borders
- advancing patient care and global health equity.

Discover more conference highlights, including the roundtable discussion and poster competition and secure your place via [our event page](#). Let's celebrate the global pathology workforce together!

## New publications

### **Guidelines in consultation**

- [Best practice recommendations: Non-chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear mass fatality incidents – the pathologists' roles](#) (closes 26 August 2025).
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy for suspected acute anaphylaxis \(including anaphylactic shock and anaphylactic asthma\)](#) (closes 1 September 2025).
- [Guidelines on veterinary necropsy practice: Storage and retention of animal tissues and records](#) (closes 2 September 2025).

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of carcinomas and borderline tumours of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and peritoneum](#) (closes 15 September 2025).

## College courses and events

### [Liver Pathology Bitesize Webinars – Hepatitic liver disease](#)

**12.30pm, Wednesday 3 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This session will provide an overview as to acute and chronic hepatitic pathologies along with clues to help differentiate between different aetiological causes, including autoimmune hepatitis, viral hepatitis and drugs.

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

### [Autopsy webinar series – 2 deceased in the same house](#)

**Thursday, 18 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

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

### [RCPATH/BNS PathExplore; \(Neuro\)pathology teaching for undergraduates – Webinar 1](#)

**Monday, 6 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Are you a medical undergraduate and keen to improve your pathology knowledge? Then why not sign up to the RCPATH/BNS Undergraduate Pathology Teaching!

The teaching is delivered by a group of expert neuropathologists who will teach you about the fundamental aspects of the mechanisms of disease, including inflammation, cancer, infection, thrombosis, infarction, neurodegeneration and much more! As well as basic pathology knowledge, each session will be supplemented with plenty of fascinating case examples from the world of neuropathology!

#### **Webinar 1 – Neuroinflammation: Neuropathology perspectives**

The inflammatory disorders of the central nervous system (CNS) can be primary (inflammation only) or secondary (associated with other disorders such as degenerative or metabolic diseases), and can also be part of the systemic inflammatory diseases. This talk is aimed to provide an overview of primary inflammatory disorders of CNS, with particular emphasis on how neuropathology contributes to the diagnosis and patient management in adult and paediatric settings.

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

### [New Consultants' Day 2025 – Virtual](#)

**Tuesday, 14 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

The New Consultants' Day is an event to help and support those recently appointed to a consultant post, or who will soon be taking one up. It is appropriate for all pathology specialties and for both medically trained pathologists and clinical scientists.

You will hear from experienced consultants on a range of topics, such as how to prepare a business case to secure resources, how to set up new services and how best to deal with complaints, and learn more about appraisal, revalidation and job planning, and the experiences of consultant clinical scientists among other things. It is most suitable for those appointed to a consultant post within the last year, or who expect to be appointed to a consultant post within the next year.

[Autopsy webinar series – Fractured neck of femur](#)**Wednesday, 15 October 2025****CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

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

[Liver pathology bitesize webinars – Liver, the weird and the wonderful](#)**12.30pm, Wednesday 5 November 2025****CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

This session will cover the slightly more unusual elements of medical liver disease that we sometimes come across, including genetic/inherited liver diseases and more.

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

[Autopsy webinar series – Diabetes and the heart](#)**Wednesday, 19 November 2025****CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

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

[Autopsy webinar series – Maternal death, Part 1](#)**Wednesday, 10 December 2025****CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

Maternal deaths are rare (only 80–100pa across the UK) but their autopsies are not generally done well, due to unfamiliarity. These 2 lectures present the overarching context of maternal mortality in the UK, cover the major pathologies of direct and indirect maternal deaths, and inform on how to perform the autopsies optimally.

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

**Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – Webinar Series**

The Royal College of Pathologists is delighted to announce a webinar series organised jointly with the European Society of Pathology, Virchows Archives and the International Paediatric Pathology Association (IPPA).

Each of the topics published by Virchows addressing paediatric tumours will be presented at the webinar series.

[Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 1](#)

**Tuesday, 2 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

**Webinar 1 talks**

- Rhabdomyosarcoma in children and young adults – Erin Rudzinski
- What is new in fibroblastic/myofibroblastic tumours in children – Alyaa Al-Ibraheemi (TBC).

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

[Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 2](#)

**Wednesday, 17 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

**Webinar 2 talks**

- Cystic masses of the paediatric lung: update on congenital pulmonary airway malformation and its differential diagnosis – Jennifer Pogoriler
- Germ cell tumours in children – Peter Bode.

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

[Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 3](#)

**Monday, 13 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

**Webinar 3 talks**

- Paediatric cancer predisposition syndromes involving non-central nervous system solid paediatric tumours: a review on their manifestations with a focus on histopathology – Ronald de Krijger
- Update on paediatric primary liver tumours – Lola Lopez Terrada.

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

[Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 4](#)

**Tuesday, 18 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

**Webinar 4 talks**

- Spitz tumours and mimickers – Arnaud de la Fouchardiere
- Emerging round cell sarcomas in children – Jessica Davis.

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

[Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 5](#)

**Tuesday, 25 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

**Webinar 5 talks**

- Paediatric renal tumours: an update on challenges and recent developments – Gino Somers/Maureen O'Sullivan
- Congenital melanocytic neoplasms: clinical, histopathological and recent molecular developments – Claudia Salgado.

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

## [Challenges and novelties in paediatric pathology – webinar 6](#)

**Wednesday, 26 November 2025**

**CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)**

### **Webinar 6 talks**

- Updates on Langerhans cell histiocytosis and other histiocytosis in children: invited review – challenges and novelties in paediatric tumours – Laura Galluzzo Mutti
- Paediatric lymphomas: overview and diagnostic challenges – Leticia Quintanilla

This event will take place at 1:00pm 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, 24 September 2025**

**CPD credits: 6**

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 virtual 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 Officer \(MEO\) Virtual Training](#)

**Wednesday, 1 October 2025**

**CPD credits: 6**

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 virtual 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.)

## Other external events of interest

2 September 2025

[Diagnexia's Computational Pathology Symposium](#)

3–5 September 2025

[The Fourth Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2025](#)

5 September 2025

[British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\) Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy \(OPAT\) Regional Workshop - London](#)

7–9 September 2025

[59th British Society for Medical Mycology \(BSMM\) Annual Conference](#)

8–29 September 2025

[Lymphoma Management](#)

11–13 September

[2025 Paediatric Pathology Society \(PPS\) Meeting](#)

19 September 2025

[CAR-T Therapy for Autoimmune Diseases](#)

23 September 2025

[8th South West Stem Cell Transplant Day](#)

25 September 2025

[Nottingham and Singapore Breast Pathology Masterclass](#)

26 September 2025

[British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology \(BSOMP\) Head & Neck Pathology Study Day](#)

26 September 2025

[Wessex & Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Course](#)

30 September 2025

[St Mark's Gastrointestinal Histopathology Workshop](#)

2–3 October 2025

[VTE Together](#)

3 October 2025

[UK Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia \(CLL\) Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#)

3 October 2025

[Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of Breast Pathology](#)

10 October 2025

[National Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia \(ALL\) Update Day](#)

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](#)**

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