



## Newsletter from Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – March 2021

### President's Messages of the Month

#### ***Viruses and vaccines – a new resource from the College***

Today marks the launch of *Viruses and Vaccines*.

Launched to coincide with the start of British Science Week, *Viruses and Vaccines* is a fantastic new resource from the College that aims to stimulate discussion and improve understanding of the vital role vaccines have in preventing disease and improving public health. It has been produced as part of the College's ongoing work to promote vaccine uptake and help combat COVID-19.

The pandemic has led to the largest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS. The College, and the wider healthcare community, have a crucial role in building public confidence in vaccination.

With a focus on COVID-19 vaccines and the role of pathology during the pandemic, *Viruses and Vaccines* sets out to engage and inform, helping to dispel many common myths and misconceptions.

I would like to thank the College's Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology and Immunology Specialty Advisory Committees and the COVID Advisory Group, who have all given huge amounts of their time developing this resource, from reviewing drafts to finding enthusiastic pathologists to volunteer for events and videos. Our public engagement team and members have done a tremendous job devising this resource – please share it widely. You can also find out more about some of the events taking place to mark the launch of the pack in *Promoting pathology*. *(to add link)*

#### **Welcoming new Fellows**

One of the most rewarding tasks as President is welcoming new Fellows to the College. It was my pleasure to do just this at a virtual welcome ceremony on 22 February, my first as President.

While this was not a formal ceremony, it is a way to acknowledge the hard work and dedication it takes to pass College exams. It was great to be able to enjoy the event with the new Fellows and their family and friends.

It was also fantastic to meet new Fellows from around the world, including Bahrain, Dubai, USA and Germany. I am very much looking forward to the next event, which will be held in March.

### **College trains the 1000th Medical Examiner**

The College is the lead medical royal college for [medical examiners](#) and plays a key role in the training of medical examiners and medical examiner officers, as well as working closely with the National Medical Examiner on the implementation of the programme.

We introduced training for this new medical specialty in 2019, so it was great to be able to mark the training of the 1000th medical examiner in February. This is an important step towards creating a world-leading system of death investigation and patient safety improvement. You can read more about Dr Yasmin Kapadia, Emergency Medicine Consultant and newly qualified Medical Examiner on the [College website](#).

### **Medical Examiner Annual Conference – 27 April.**

I am pleased to be giving the welcome address at the [Medical Examiner Annual Conference](#), which will be hosted by the College on 27 April.

Speakers will include Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety, NHS England and NHS Improvement, Keith Conradi, Chief Investigator, Health Safety Investigation Board, and the Chief Coroner, His Honour Judge Thomas Teague QC.

Nadine Dorries MP, Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, will be giving a ministerial address at the event.

You can [book your place and see the full programme](#) on the College website.

### **On the agenda**

- Our second COVID-19 webinar series, giving updates on the coronavirus pandemic, has been incredibly well received. I was delighted to have the opportunity to co-present 'Providing an Update on COVID-19 Autopsy Pathology', with my colleague Dr Brian Hanley, Cellular Pathologist at Imperial NHS Trust, as part of the series. You can view [recordings of the webinars](#) on our website.
- I participated in a roundtable hosted by HSJ and Siemens in December, discussing how the COVID-19 testing regime has gone to date. The report, *How COVID-19 testing is developing and its future*, was [published in the Health Service Journal](#) last month.
- I gave an interview to [Health Europa](#) about pathology services and cancer diagnostics which you can read [here](#).
- I had a productive meeting with [Dr Bill Kirkup CBE](#) to discuss areas such as patient safety, maternity safety, perinatal pathology and the implementation of the national medical examiner system.
- Dr Francesca Heard, an infectious diseases and microbiology trainee at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, has written [a blog about her experiences of starting infection training](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are looking to appoint a new lay trustee to join the College. Please spread the word on this and share the [further information on the role](#).
- The General Medical Council has published a useful [report about supporting successful training for black and minority ethnic doctors](#), which draws on insights from interviews with BME doctors in training, with examples of activities across the medical education sector.

**Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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## **WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

### **Wellbeing: How to get through those days when you just want to scream**

As part of our Professional Development Blog Series, Dr Chris Tiplady – Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the University of Sunderland – shares his advice on getting through the challenging days as a medical professional.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [How to recognise when you're being bullied at work and what to do about it](#)
- [How team leaders can spot burnout and support their staff](#)
- [Uncertainty in diagnosis: what to do when you don't know what to do](#)

### **College signs MoU with the Care Quality Commission**

The College is pleased to announce it has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to safeguard the wellbeing of people receiving health and social care in England, promote patient safety, support improvements in care, coordinate activity and use resources effectively.

Jeremy Hunt MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee, has mentioned the MoU between the CQC and the College in an update from his new charity, Patient Safety Watch – 'Good to see patient safety at the heart of this new agreement between the CQC and the Royal College of Pathologists.'

### **Submit a case study and claim CPD credits**

Would you like to share your knowledge and experiences with colleagues and earn CPD credits?

We are looking for case studies on experiences that have, or may have, impacted on patient safety. The case study should describe what went well or less well, and why.

We would also like to hear: how the situation was approached and resolved; what was learnt; and how this was shared. This constitutes high-quality learning and you can claim 1 CPD credit per case study you send us in your online CPD portfolio.

For an example of a published case study, please see [The devil is in the details](#). For more information, please email [cpd@rcpath.org](mailto:cpd@rcpath.org)

### **E-learning for UK consultant interviews: sitting on an Advisory Appointment Committee panel**

This 30-minute virtual course delivers an overview of an Advisory Appointment

Committee (AAC) procedures. It was developed to ensure royal college representatives can provide an effective and purposeful presence in the interview process.

This free course is aimed at UK interviewers who sit on AACs and will be of interest to all those involved in the recruitment process, including representatives from the recruiting body and the royal college representative.

Access the course to find out more about:

- interviewing good practice for royal college representatives
- equality and diversity legislation
- handling difficult scenarios
- interactive tools with practical tips and examples.

The course is worth 1 CPD point and a certificate of completion is provided. Please contact [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org) for more information and to enrol.

### **Updated guide for College members**

We've updated our introductory guide, which explains how the College works to new trainees, Fellows, Council members, staff and Honorary Officers. [Download the guide](#) (login required).

### **College building and facilities**

The College's building at 6 Alie Street remains open, within government restrictions, throughout the lockdown period for essential activities such as training and meetings. The building will be closed when not in use, so if you wish to come in, please contact [reception](#) for opening times.

College staff are continuing to work remotely and are contactable by [email and phone](#). We will be constantly reviewing arrangements in line with official guidelines.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Join us in celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) – 8 March**

The theme of this year's IWD is #Choosetochallenge . IWD celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It is also an opportunity to highlight the need for more action to accelerate gender parity. In keeping with the theme, our [news story](#) voices what choosing to challenge means for two women working in pathology in Ecuador and Jordan. You can also find about how everyone can support the day by taking to social media and striking the [#choosetochallenge pose](#).

## **PROMOTING PATHOLOGY**

### **Viruses and Vaccines online events**

The College's public engagement team has worked with virologists, immunologists, microbiologists, artists and other freelancers to put together a number of online events and activities as part of the *Viruses and Vaccines* project. The aim of the project is to inform discussions about viruses and vaccines and to help dispel myths and misconceptions, particularly about COVID-19 and the new vaccines.

Online events for students and families will be run using the new resources; please share these event links with your colleagues, family and friends:

- [\*\*Online art-science workshop for families on 13 March.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Online school discussion workshop on 10 March\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Online discussion workshop for undergraduates on 18 March\*\*](#)

### **Help us promote our annual essay competitions for undergraduates and Foundation doctors**

This year's essay questions address the contributions of pathology in managing COVID-19. The winner will be awarded £200 and have their essay published on our website and in the College magazine, *The Bulletin*. Find out more at [www.rcpath.org/essay-competitions](http://www.rcpath.org/essay-competitions).

### **Apply for funding for your events – our public engagement grant scheme is now open**

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. The public engagement team is happy to answer questions and provide advice to any prospective grant applicants, so get in touch if you would like to discuss your application. Online/virtual event ideas are welcomed. Find out more on our [website](#).

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

### **National Medical Examiner Good Practice series**

The National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series is a topical collection of focused summary documents, designed to be easily read and digested by busy front-line staff, with links to further reading, guidance and support. The first in our series provides recommendations for how medical examiners can support people of Black, Asian and minority ethnic heritage and their relatives.

### **Medical Examiner Officer training record and supporting documents**

The College has published a Training portfolio for the Medical Examiner Officer certificate of competence, which is to be used to create a continuous record of training and development. We have also published a user guide and further supporting documents.

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **The Beautiful Brain – Virtual Event**

**Thursday 15 and Friday 16 April 2021**

**CPD credits: 10**

This event, which is now taking place virtually, is a special course that focuses on the instrumental role of neuropathological study in the analysis of human brain disorders, examining prenatal onset, management, cause identification, genetic advice, and research on human neurodevelopment and new therapies.

This course is recommended to perinatal and paediatric pathologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, geneticists and neuroscientists, and health professionals involved in prenatal/fetal medicine.

New virtual registration fees and programme available soon. [Contact us](#) for more details.

### **Diagnostics and classification of pituitary neoplasms – Virtual Event**

**Friday 23 April 2021**

**CPD credits: 4**

This webinar will provide an up-to-date overview on accurate, clinically relevant classification of pituitary tumours with routine histological and advanced molecular techniques and will be of interest to consultants and trainees in neuropathology as well as anyone interested in diagnostics of pituitary tumours.

Following the review of pituitary gland development, clinically relevant classification of posterior pituitary tumours and specific recommendations for classification of neuroendocrine tumours of adenohypophysis will be discussed. To compare the diagnostic approach to classification of pituitary tumours across the UK, centres with recently proposed diagnostic criteria findings from a national audit will be presented. The landscape of genetic alterations observed in pituitary tumours and their role in diagnostics and biological behaviour will be addressed. An approach for classification of neuroendocrine tumours of adenohypophysis integrating histological and molecular findings will be presented.

### **Medical Examiner Annual Conference – Virtual Event**

**Tuesday 27 April 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

The first annual Medical Examiner Conference is being held via Zoom on 27 April 2021. The National Medical Examiner will present his first *Annual Report* and there will be contributions from representatives of the Department of Health and Social Care, the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch, the Care Quality Commission, the Chief Coroner and faith communities. There will also be an opportunity to hear about local implementation in England and Wales. This conference will be of interest to medical examiners and officers, coroners and anyone who works to improve patient safety or support the bereaved. The day will run 9.30–4.30pm.

### **Going digital: Practical guide to digital pathology deployments from those who've done it**

**Tuesday 11 May 2021**

**CPD credits: 3**

An online workshop about the practicalities of implementing digital pathology. The event covers the College approach to digital pathology safety, practical advice from several groups who have implemented digital pathology. Also covered will be the latest College guidance on using digital pathology during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Q&A session will allow delegates plenty of opportunity to get tips from those who've already gone digital.

### **Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy - Virtual Event & Bitesize Series**

**Friday 14 May 2021 and weekly events from June 1st**

**CPD credits: 12**

To accompany our one-day programme 'Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy - Virtual Event', a webinar series, Bitesize Liver webinar, has been added. Delegates will have the option to attend the full day programme only, the full day programme plus all the webinar sessions or the option to pick and choose what to attend.

**Virtual Liver Event – 14 May 2021:** The aim of this 'virtual' liver day is to provide a good grounding for an approach to liver biopsies. It will also facilitate updates of recent practical advancements in liver pathology and the understanding of more common diagnoses to improve a standardised approach to the reporting of liver cases. It is relevant to all those who report liver pathology.

**Bitesize Liver webinar series: 1 June to 5 July:** A webinar series of six one-hour sessions to run weekly. These sessions will have a small number of digital slides made available to view a week prior. Each session will include discussion of the cases, with experts highlighting any recent advancements in that area, and providing hints and tips to aid in diagnosis.

**Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass – Addressing Challenges in Breast Pathology – External Event**

**Thursday 27 May 2021**

**CPD credits: 7**

The renowned masterclass moves online in 2021, focusing on addressing challenges in diagnostic breast pathology. With a faculty of leading experts from across the world, the masterclass is ideal for practising pathologists, pathology Fellows and trainees. Topics include:

- the use of IHC in diagnostic breast pathology
- improving concordance in breast cancer reporting
- an update on receptor assessment in breast cancer and pitfalls
- WHO updates on breast tumour classification
- diagnostically challenging breast lesions
- diagnostic challenges on core biopsies
- approaches to diagnosis microscopy workshops
- meet the experts.

**Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts**

**Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021**

**CPD credits: 9**

Placental pathology is a unique area of perinatal pathology. Its understanding requires knowledge of normal development, physiology and histopathology, as well as fetal and maternal medicine. Requests for placental examinations have grown in recent years, but this has not been matched by a growth in numbers of histopathologists trained in reporting them. This course will provide an update on placental physiology, current classification and new insights into the knowledge of placental conditions.

The course is designed for paediatric/perinatal and general histopathology trainees at any stage of their training, as well as consultants. The course will also be of benefit to obstetricians, both consultants and those in training.

**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.

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**

**Thursday 22 April 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

**Medical examiner training session – Virtual Training**

**Thursday 20 May 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

**Medical examiner training session – Virtual Training**

**Wednesday 16 June 2021**

**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, e.g. 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**

**Thursday 25 March 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

**For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.**

### **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **Care Quality Commission (CQC) – specialist advisor roles – pathology/medical laboratories**

The CQC's approach to inspection relies on the inclusion of Specialist Advisors in each inspection team. The CQC is currently seeking to recruit and strengthen teams within the pathology/medical laboratories field. As a specialist advisor you will provide specialist advice and knowledge and support the CQC's regulatory inspection and investigation activity. This role is ad-hoc and will run alongside your current role.

For further information and to apply please follow this link: SpA Medical Laboratories.

#### **Genomics Masterclass – book now last few places available**

**31 March - 6-8pm**

The NHS Genomic Medicine Service launching in April 2021 will see gene-guided diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutics as the new standard of cancer care.

The Cancer Genomics Masterclass will introduce the NHS Genomic Medicine Service and the National Genomic Test Directory to attendees. This is a collaborative event providing opportunity to connect with key Cancer and Genomics Leads from across the North West. Visit Genomics Masterclass to register.

#### **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) – Impact report**

NICE has published an impact report on cardiovascular disease (CVD) management. This new report considers how NICE's evidence-based guidance contributes to improvements in care of people with CVD.

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

10 March 2021

UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day



11 March

Symposium on the Contributions by the Anthony Nolan Research Institute to HSCT over 27 years and the Current Status of Innovative Cell Therapies

17 March 2021

UKMF Spring Day

22 March 2021

Joint BSAC/EWMA webinar: The impact of Covid-19 on chronic wound management and the effect on antimicrobial stewardship

24 March 2021

Post ASH Significant Highlights

21 April 2020

Non Operative Breast Pathology Update Course

21–23 April 2021

EFI 2021, From Research to Clinical Reality

**RCPATH CPD-accredited online resources can be found [here](#).**



