



President's newsletter – March 2022



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President's message

Ukraine

Watching the appalling war unfold in Ukraine, we are thinking of all those whose lives have been shattered including those of our healthcare colleagues.

We would ask members to consider making a donation to the [Disaster Emergency Committee](#) appeal which is providing emergency aid including support for hospitals and healthcare facilities. [The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has also made a statement.](#)

Organisations across the NHS and the health and care sector will also be keen to help. In order to coordinate offers of assistance, the NHS England and Improvement Stakeholder and Engagement Team have asked for offers of help to be sent to England.incident14@nhs.net, to avoid creating disruption or duplication.

The College holds a memorandum of understanding with [Shupyk Medical School in Ukraine](#), with whom we have worked closely over the last three years. We have been in close touch with our country advisors for Ukraine and are responding to requests for help as best we can.

The College's International Team also has compiled a factsheet of information for Ukrainian doctors and provides support to refugee doctors already in the UK.

The College building in London was lit up in the

colours of the Ukrainian flag in a show of support. [You can find out more here.](#)

Health and Care Bill

The House of Lords has supported an [amendment](#) to the Health and Care Bill which requires future NHS workforce planning. The amendment had been rejected by the government previously. Proposing the amendment, Baroness Cumberlege said: 'Workforce is the single greatest problem facing the NHS.'

We supported the amendment as part of a coalition of over 90 health and care organisations calling for stronger provisions on workforce planning.

Without it, the bill will fail to address the biggest challenge facing the NHS and social care – staffing shortages and pressures.

College fellow awarded CBE

I want to congratulate College Fellow Professor Cheng Hock Toh, Consultant Haematologist at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who was [awarded honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire \(CBE\)](#) by Her Majesty The Queen in recognition of his services to haematology and medicine.

Professor Toh has a distinguished career as a clinician, researcher, health technology innovator, educator and professional leader. He has worked at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital since 1995 and in 2001 helped to establish the hospital's renowned Roald Dahl Haemostasis and Thrombosis Centre. Professor Toh was recently [profiled in the January issue of the *Bulletin*.](#)

Parliamentary engagement

- Dr Srinivas Annavarapu, Chair of the Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Specialty Advisory Committee, attended a meeting of the [All Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss](#), which was held jointly with the All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) on Maternity. The [College recommendations](#) were well received by the panellists, especially the issues relating to the acute national shortage of the perinatal and paediatric pathology workforce.

- Some of our College Fellows also attended the APPGs on Blood Cancer and Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies' launch of their joint report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on blood cancer. We submitted [evidence](#) to this crucial inquiry which investigated how the diagnosis and management of blood cancer have changed as a result of the pandemic, and what measures are needed for services to recover.
- Elliot Colburn MP, Conservative MP for Carshalton and Wallington, introduced our ['Pathologists in Profile'](#) section of the January *Bulletin* and described his work with the College.

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Diamond Jubilee – Celebrating 60 years of the College

[2022 is the College's Diamond Jubilee year.](#) The College was founded on 21 June 1962 to develop and support the evolving specialties of pathology.

Open day celebrations – 21 June

Central to the celebrations is the Open Day event at the College building, 6 Alie Street, London on 21 June 2022.

The day will include stands aimed at members and stakeholders, and public engagement activities for local school students run by College members, representing different specialties.

A special Foundation Lecture will be given by College Fellow Professor Jonathan Van Tam.

Competitions

We have just launched three exciting competitions:

- Undergraduates and Foundation doctors are encouraged to enter [our two essay prizes](#) for the chance to win £250. To mark the College's 60th anniversary, this year's essay questions centre around the impact of pathology in the last 60 years.
- Pathology trainees, undergraduates and Foundation doctors can also enter the [RCPath Science Communication Prize](#) – two winners will be awarded £500 each.
- Our [Art of Pathology competition](#) is open to adults and children from the UK and abroad. This year's theme is 'Pathology: Past, Present and Future'. Prizes of up to £1000 will be awarded to the category winners. Both the art competition and science communication prize are kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#).

Podcasts

In this series, we talk to some incredibly inspiring people working across the 17 different pathology specialties, each month releasing two episodes, featuring the same guest speaker. Check out [our latest podcast](#).

Living Autopsy Tour

We have kickstarted our Living Autopsy UK tour with two digital events for the Northern Ireland Science Festival presented by Past President Dr Suzy Lishman CBE. In tandem, we are running other Living Autopsy events across the UK. Check out our calendar [here](#) and spread the word for your [local area](#).

Training

The advanced public engagement training is being postponed from April to a date later in the year. The standard level training will go ahead on 12 May 2022 at the College and attendees will be encouraged to volunteer at the College Open Day in June. For further information please check [here](#).

The 2022 Neera Patel Lecture (named lecture of the Royal College of Pathologists)

The College is working with the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology (BDIAP) and The Pathological Society, to host the *2022 Neera Patel Lecture* during the College's Diamond Jubilee year. The lecture will be given at the combined BDIAP/Pathological Society Annual Scientific Meeting at the end of June in Liverpool. The lecture must be given about advances in either breast or head-and-neck cancer pathology.

The lecture was established in memory of Dr Neera Kanubhai Patel, a cellular pathologist who spent 17 years as a consultant in Brighton and at Northwick Park Hospital.

We are calling for nominations for suitable eminent candidates for this lecture. Nominations are to be sent to Professor Sarah Coupland, RCPATH Vice President (at sarah.coupland@rcpath.org) with an accompanying citation of 300 words to support the candidate. Deadline – 20 March 2022. For more information visit: [Neera Patel lecture](#).

Working for members

Service Spotlight: Patient care at The Liverpool Roald Dahl Haemostasis and Thrombosis Centre

Our Service Spotlight blog series highlights pathology services that operate at an exceptional standard. For our [latest instalment](#), Dr Tina Dutt, a haematologist specialising in haemostasis and thrombosis, based at The Roald Dahl Haemostasis and Thrombosis Centre, Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and winner of our Achievements Awards in 2020, shares her experience with her multidisciplinary team and their achievements in working with communities and patient groups.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [Patient Safety at the heart of the Oxford Anticoagulation Service](#)
- [Genomics at the Central & South NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub and West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory](#)
- [Digital Pathology at the IDEXX Laboratory in Wetherby](#)
- [Veterinary Pathology at the zoological society of London \(ZSL\)](#).

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2022

The College recognises and appreciates the tremendous effort made by our members during the global pandemic. To alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2021/2022 CPD deadline to 30 September 2022.

If you need more time to submit or have any queries please contact the CPD Department: cpd@rcpath.org.

E-learning module for Advisory Appointment Committee representatives

The Workforce team has available e-learning training for representatives attending Advisory Appointment Committees (AAC) or wishing to act as a representative. The training offers an overall view and guidance for the role of an assessor. It is available to established College representatives and those who are interested in becoming a representative.

If you would like the training to attend an AAC and are an established consultant i.e. more than 3 years in a substantive post, undertaking CPD, have equality and diversity training, and would be interested in representing the College on an ACC/s, we can provide access to the half hour online training module.

The training has been assigned 1 CPD point. Ideally, we would like you to follow up the training by attending one AAC in the first 12 months. If you are interested, please contact: workforce@rcpath.org

Survey on mortuary occupational health – histopathology and forensic pathology

Please [complete a short survey](#) on behalf of a College member who is researching the occupational health of people who work regularly in mortuaries. The results will be analysed and then shared with the College, and will be used to inform its advocacy work.

The survey is being carried out anonymously and it will also be sent to anatomical pathology technicians.

The survey will only take five minutes to complete and is open until the end of April. There is an optional prize draw for £30 of Amazon vouchers as an incentive to encourage you to respond (this is not linked to survey answers to preserve anonymity). If you have any questions about the survey, please contact t.estrin-serlui@nhs.net.

Get involved at the College

Chair of National Quality Assessment Advisory Panel for Cellular Pathology

The Cellular Pathology NQAAP is responsible for monitoring participant performance in interpretative and technical External Quality Assessment schemes in cellular pathology. Further details about the role can be found in the role description below. We would particularly welcome nominations from eligible Fellows from all backgrounds since representation at senior levels in the College does not reflect the wealth of diversity of our members. For more information, please visit [NQAAP for Cellular Pathology](#).

Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Audit Evaluators – Urgently needed

We are urgently looking for Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology evaluators to evaluate whether the criteria and standards for audits submitted to our audit certification scheme are met appropriately.

For more information and how to apply, please go to [Get Involved at the College](#). Contact us on 020 7451 6737 or clinicaleffectiveness@rcpath.org for a brief information about this role.

International

Books and learning resources to be donated to healthcare workers in Myanmar

We are pleased to share the good news that an application submitted by the International team to the BMA Information fund for up to £2,000 worth of medical books and learning materials was successful. They will be sent to support the continued professional development of medical doctors of all specialities and allied health care professionals in Myanmar. You can [read more here](#).

Become a partnering laboratory for an exchange programme that aims to foster and share best practice in newborn screening, diagnosis and treatment of sickle cell disease in sub-Saharan Africa

We are pleased to invite haemoglobinopathy laboratories UK wide, delivering screening for sickle cell disease for babies and infants using isoelectric focusing (IEF) to collaborate with us on ARISE, an EU funded project that the College is participating in. Placements are required starting from spring 2022 until December 2025 to accommodate laboratory scientists and doctors from sub-Saharan Africa (primarily Nigeria), for a minimum of 3 months at a time. To find out more and to express your interest visit the [College website](#) or email international@rcpath.org.

Regional news

Regional surgeries in England

The College's Regional Representatives on College Council have introduced new and innovative ways to hear from members and understand the views across the region that they represent.

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are warmly invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. These are planned to be held in the time before College Council meets in order to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

The next round of regional surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- **London surgery:** held on 21 March 2022, 3.30pm–4.30pm – *led by Dr Rachael Liebmann (rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (London)*
- **North of England surgery:** 31 March 2022, 12.30pm–2.00pm – *led by Dr Ali Robb (ali.robb@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)*
- **South of England surgery:** held on 26 April 2022, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi (negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (South)*
- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** date to be confirmed – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali (laszlo.igali@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England).*

Promoting pathology

[Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#)

The grant is to support the delivery of a range of pathology-related public engagement events throughout the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations. There is one funding opportunity available each year and applications will close on 1 June 2022. For further information, please check [the College website](#).

[School Science Conference 2022](#)

27 April at the University of Westminster

The RCPATH workshop will educate students about stem cells and explore the ethical considerations aroundaviour siblings. We are looking for 20 volunteers. This is a great opportunity for College members, based within the M25, to volunteer on the day and promote the role of pathologists to students.

For any enquiries on any of the above projects please contact publicengagement@rcpath.org.

College conferences and events

Joint Coroner and Medical Examiner Virtual Training

Selected dates available

The relationship between Medical Examiners (ME) services and their local Coroners is vitally important, as highlighted at the ME training day. This event is an opportunity to consolidate understanding of topics including when to notify the Coroner and what constitutes an unnatural death, and will be attended by both MEs and Coroners. One of the aims is to facilitate networking between local MEs and Coroners, and so each event is focused on a single coronial region. Please try to attend the event for your region where possible. However, we appreciate that this is not always possible and you can attend any of the events if you wish.

To book please select from the below dates/regions.

- [29 Mar 2022 – Wales](#)

The day will run from 9am to 3:45pm and has been developed along similar lines to the ME face-to-face training day, with a mixture of short talks and breakout groups with discussion of challenging scenarios. There will inevitably be some revision of basic concepts to ensure that both MEs and Coroners understand each other's roles, but we hope that the scenario discussions in particular will build on previous learning.

This event is open to Medical Examiners and Coroners only.

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 session – Virtual Zoom Training

Thursday 21 April 2022
CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner training session – IN PERSON

Tuesday 7 June 2022
To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT
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 examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Wednesday 25 May 2022
CPD credits: 6

Infection Study Day – Virtual Event

27 April 2022 – Save the date
CPD credits: 4

This half day session has been devised for those working or interested in infection specialties including microbiology, virology and infectious diseases. The programme should be of interest to all levels and aims to give trainees the opportunity for consultant led, interactive teaching to equip them with knowledge and skills for specialist medical microbiology and virology practice.

To hear more and join the waiting list please contact us on meetings@rcpath.org.

New Consultant Day – Face to Face

Friday 29 April 2022
To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT
CPD credits: 5

The New Consultants' Day is a new event, intended to help and support anyone who has recently been appointed to a consultant post, or who will very

soon be taking one up. It is appropriate for all pathology specialties and much of the content will be suitable for both medical consultants and consultant clinical scientists (with the exception of the GMC and BMA presentations).

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 pension arrangements, among other things. To register, you should ideally have been appointed to a consultant post within the last year or have passed FRCPATH and/or made a successful CESR application and expect to be appointed to a consultant within the next year.

[Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy - Virtual Event](#)

Friday 6 May 2021

CPD credits: 6

Following excellent feedback during our inaugural "Solving the Enigma of the Liver biopsy" course in 2021, for 2022 we have revised the programme, aiming to cover other aspects within the specialty of liver pathology based on delegates feedback. This virtual liver day is aimed at consultant and SAS who report liver biopsies as part of their everyday workload, and senior trainees who may wish to enhance their understanding of liver pathology.

This course should provide updates and advancements on areas of liver pathology which can sometimes be found more challenging, focussing predominantly on medical liver, but also briefly touching on neoplastic pathology with regards to the diagnosis of hepatocellular lesions. The invited speakers are all experts within their field. At the end of each session there will be an opportunity for delegates to ask questions to the speakers.

[Bitesize Liver Pathology webinar series](#)

Monday 30 May – Monday 4th July

CPD Credits: 6 (for all sessions)

We are excited to announce the return of our bitesize liver pathology sessions for a second year. These will take place on Monday afternoons from 4.30-5.30pm, held via zoom. This years' topics have been selected to cover different areas of the field of liver pathology, and are based on delegate feedback from last year.

These one hour webinars are aimed at senior registrars predominantly, but may also be of interest to SAS doctors and consultants who report liver biopsies occasionally as part of their everyday work. The aim is to provide attendees with the opportunity to view example digital slides before each session, followed by case based discussions by an expert in the field. There will also be the opportunity for speakers to provide hints and tips to aid in diagnosis and interpretation, and for delegates to pose questions to the speakers to enhance their understanding.

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

News from external organisations

External only post-mortem examinations (view & grants) – online questionnaire

Jacob Forster, a University of Dundee intercalating medical student, is looking at the attitudes of forensic pathologists, coroners and Procurators Fiscal toward the so-called 'view and grant' (external-only) post-mortem examination. The research is supervised by Dr David Sadler, a senior lecturer in Forensic Medicine. The questionnaire is aimed at exploring how these attitudes influence the scope of a post-mortem examination, and whether they serve as barriers preventing different groups of people from engaging with a Scottish-style 'view and grant' system.

You are invited to take part in an anonymous 10 minute questionnaire consisting of four sections (demographics, attitude statements, case examples, and a final free-text section). The survey is available via the [following link](#).

Jacob and David would like to hear from forensic pathologist, coroner or Procurator Fiscal colleagues throughout the UK. Even if you are no longer active in autopsy practice, your views as a pathologist are welcome. Please feel free to distribute the survey link to any other individual involved in deciding the scope of post-mortem examinations.

For more information contact: Jacob Foster (2469896@dundee.ac.uk), BMSc Forensic and Legal Medicine Student, University of Dundee, or Dr David Sadler (d.w.sadler@dundee.ac.uk), Senior Lecturer, Centre for Forensic Medicine and Dentistry, University of Dundee.

Focus group participants needed to help develop leadership resources for ICSs

NHS England and NHS Improvement are creating new self-assessment resources to support the leadership and cultural development of Integrated Care Systems as they form and evolve into the future.

During March, get involved by [attending a one-hour online focus group](#), guided by an expert facilitator, at a time that best suits you, or responding to this [online questionnaire](#).

Full details are available through the [Innovation Agency](#), which is partnering with NHSE/I to develop these resources.

Join the National Cancer Institute Research Pathology Network

By joining the NCRI Pathology Network you will be part of a central hub of cancer researchers that will have the opportunity to work with NCRI's Cellular Molecular Pathology Initiative (CMPath).

CMPath is a central part of NCRI activity, acting as a forum to bring the pathology community together and coordinating activities to develop new research. For more information [visit the NCRI website](#).

Other external events of interest

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass – Addressing Challenges in Diagnostic Breast Pathology – EXTERNAL EVENT](#)

Wednesday 23 March 2022

CPD credits: 7

The Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass aims to improve the provision of routine breast pathology. It leans towards the practical diagnostic histopathology of

breast disease with a special emphasis on areas which pose diagnostic difficulties. With a faculty of leading experts, the masterclass is ideal for practising pathologists, pathology fellows and trainees. It takes place online, so you can learn from our experts from your own home or office

Other events

16 March 2022
[UKMF Spring Day](#)

18 March 2022
[FRONTIERS – Treating AML in 2022](#)

21 March – 21 November 2022
[Blood Academy Webinar Series 2022](#)

24–25 March 2022
[British Association for Ophthalmic Pathology \(BAOP\) 2022 Annual Meeting](#)

25 March 2022
[Beyond morphology – an immunohistochemical and molecular approach to gynaecological malignancies](#)

03–05 April 2022
[62nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Society for Haematology](#)

06 April 2022
[DECON UK 2022](#)

29 April 2022
[Economic Evaluation](#)

05–06 May 2022
[British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

05 May 2022
[BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas webinar: Bone & Joint Infections](#)

08 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 1](#)

15 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 2](#)

22 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 3](#)

09–10 June 2022
[BAGP 18th Annual Meeting](#)

27–28 September 2022
[Infection 360](#)

RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following link.