



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

President's Message of the Month

COVID-19 backlog – Trust work-streams

Many Trusts are putting in place workstreams to maximise throughput to help manage the COVID backlog.

We have been made aware that many Trusts have not included pathology services in their planning.

Please check that your Trust has included pathology services in its planning provision.

Volunteers' week 1 – 7 June

Volunteers' week is a national celebration of the contribution that volunteers make across the UK. It's also an opportunity to say thank you. We are enormously grateful for our volunteers, and the College couldn't function without you.

From taking up a specialty advisor role on a College committee, to joining the Pathology Portal editorial board, standing for Council or becoming a College examiner, there are many ways you can become involved in helping shape and guide the work of the College.

To mark Volunteers' Week, you can read about College members who have taken up volunteer roles including a RCPATH invited reviewer, a member of the Pathology Portal editorial board and an Education Lead for the Sponsorship Scheme and International Trainee Support Scheme.

I hope you will consider taking up a volunteering role. We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College. Find out more by visiting [Get involved at the College webpage](#) for the latest vacancies.

RCPATH Foundation Fellowships

Following the success of this scheme last year, I am pleased to announce that the College will be making a number of Foundation Fellowships available again this year. The Foundation Fellowship scheme is open to Foundation doctors who secure a post rotating through any pathology specialty – this includes histopathology, haematology, medical microbiology and infectious diseases or any other specialty represented by the

College. Foundation doctors undertaking longitudinal integrated foundation training (LIFT) in pathology are also eligible to apply.

The closing date is 31 August 2021 and more information can be found on the [College website](#). If your department has placements for Foundation doctors please do encourage them to apply.

NICE report – Impact diagnostic pathology

I was very pleased to be able to contribute to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) report - [NICE impact diagnostic pathology](#).

Focussing on NICE guidance where uptake data was available, the report covers among other areas, how NICE identify and support adoption of new diagnostics, uptake of NICE-recommended pathology diagnostics and diagnostic pathology during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report highlights data that shows that between March and June 2020, diagnostic tests such as blood tests, fell by 80% in primary care compared to the previous year. While the number of tests have since increased, pathology-related guidance by NICE is helping address the diagnostic backlog caused by the pandemic, by signposting ways in which specialist services can be maintained while reducing the risks from COVID-19.

Justice Select Committee report on the Coroner Service

We welcome the report from the House of Commons Justice Select Committee on the Coroner Service.

The report follows on from evidence that I and others gave to the Justice Committee in September 2020. I spoke alongside the Coroners' Society highlighting the shortage of pathologists to carry out post-mortems. The College also provided written evidence to the inquiry.

We are pleased that the report contains a number of recommendations to address the shortage of pathology services: including that the Ministry of Justice should immediately review and increase Coroner Service fees for pathologists.

Catch up with Cancer APPG roundtable discussion

Following evidence submitted by the College, I spoke at the #CatchUpWithCancer roundtable discussion hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Radiotherapy, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Health. The event brought together experts from across the cancer healthcare community with parliamentarians to discuss the cancer backlog. Workforce pressures across the four UK nations are being compounded by the pandemic. There have been reductions in patients seeking help for their symptoms, including a significant decline in referrals from primary care leading to substantial delays in diagnosis and a significant backlog of cases.

The recommendations and views will contribute to the report MPs will launch at the end of May.

On the agenda

- Following the recent elections in Scotland and Wales we are looking forward to working with the governments in both countries to ensure that our priorities for pathology services, outlined in our College manifestos, are met.

- The [GMC national training survey](#) has been launched and we are encouraging all pathology trainees and trainers to complete this. It's a really useful and valuable opportunity for you to have your say.
- We were very pleased to receive a letter from [Nadine Dorries MP](#), Minister of State for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, thanking the College for hosting the recent Medical Examiner Conference on 27 April 2021. She recognised the support to the medical examiner system including the delivery of the medical examiner training programme and the medical examiner committee.

Supporting our trainees

The pandemic continues to take its toll on everyone working in healthcare. As we anxiously watch and wait to see what the full impact of variant B.1.617.2 will be, please remember to check in on trainees. This is especially important at the moment when some will be receiving their examination results and, for the medical trainees, preparing for their ARCPs following a year of potentially disrupted training. We also have sources of support on our [COVID-19: Information for trainees webpage](#).

Many of our colleagues will also be worried for family overseas, in countries such as India, which is still dealing with the catastrophic cases effects of the latest wave.

Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists

E: michael.osborn@rcpath.org. [@mike4path](#)

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

EU Settlement Scheme

The College is proud to be an organisation with members in the UK and all around the world. Many pathology specialties have been, and still are, on the Government's shortage occupation list. As a result, many of our members have come from other countries to work in pathology in the UK. Pathology departments rely on these highly qualified doctors and scientists. The UK's departure from the EU does not change this.

However, where appropriate, members are encouraged to apply through the EU Settlement Scheme. The deadline for applying is Wednesday 30 June 2021. More information can be found from the [UK Government website](#).

If you receive a letter regarding your status which you believe to be incorrect, a telephone helpline is available at 0300 123 7379.

Doctors and scientists (including pathologists) were added to the [shortage occupation list](#) and are eligible for a Skilled Worker visa.

Pride Month – June

What is it & why is it important?

Every year in June, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBTQ+) community celebrate as a way of recognising the struggles and influence LGBTQ+ people have had around the world. June was chosen because it was when the Stonewall riots took place in 1969. LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience physical violence, harassment, bullying, abuse and discrimination than their cisgendered straight colleagues. Furthermore, LGBTQ+ people have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic suffering from poor mental health, social isolation and delayed access to healthcare. [*BMJ – How covid-19 has exacerbated LGBTQ+ health inequalities.*](#)

By increasing visibility of LGBTQ+ issues and being intentionally inclusive, it hoped that inequalities will reduce.

What can you do?

We are asking members of the College to post pictures/images on social media that recognise and celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusivity in pathology, the wider workplace and beyond. Members are encouraged to join in and share their experiences by also tagging the College's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, where members of the College's Communications Team will retweet and share posts. The efforts and support of LGBTQ+ allies and advocates of inclusion are vital for change to be brought about.

Pathology Standards – Webinar Series on Guidance for Implementation

The College is hosting a free, bite sized webinar series to help pathologists with the implementation of new and revised clinical guidelines. The webinars are presented by authors of datasets and tissue pathways.

Register for the next webinar - [Implementation guidance for carcinomas and mucinous neoplasms of the appendix - Friday 23 July 12.30pm](#)

Service Spotlight: Digital Pathology at the IDEXX laboratory in Wetherby

Our Service Spotlight blog series highlights pathology services that operate at an exceptional standard. For our latest instalment, Rev Dr Jenny McKay, Head of European Anatomic Pathology at IDEXX Laboratories Ltd in Wetherby, talks about her experience with her team and the future of [digital pathology](#). The pathology team at IDEXX UK in Wetherby were the first diagnostic laboratory to implement digital pathology for all their diagnostic pathologists and they won an RCPATH Achievement Award in 2020 for innovation in pathology practice.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [Veterinary Pathology at the zoological society of London \(ZSL\)](#)
- [Nottingham University Hospitals microbiology laboratory service](#)
- [The mortuary department at West Herts NHS Trust](#)
- [Liverpool ocular pathology services](#)

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2021

The College recognises and appreciates the tremendous effort made by our members during this extremely difficult period.

In order to provide a bit of a breathing space and alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2020/2021 CPD returns deadline to 30 September 2021.

GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

Nominations open for Asst Registrar, Wales Regional Chair and NI Regional Chair

The nomination phase for the election of three of the college's trustees opened on 1 June.

All eligible Fellows have been sent information directly by [Civica](#), who are managing the process on behalf of the College.

These roles offer the opportunity to contribute at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of care that patients receive.

Information on the three roles can be found on the following links:

- [Assistant Registrar](#)
- [Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair](#)
- [Wales Regional Council Chair](#)

Nominations will be accepted up to midday on 6 September 2021.

Pathology Portal – Operation Delivery Trainee and Scientist roles

The College is seeking a medical trainee and a scientist to join the Operational Delivery group of the [Pathology Portal](#) on a sessional basis, to support the project's activities and the creation of specialist content for the learning platform.

The post holders will be expected to attend regular project meetings and workshops to help inform the design and delivery of the product and more broadly drive the Portal forward, as well as assisting with the production of specialist learning content for the platform.

To apply to either the Trainee or the Scientist role, please refer to following role descriptions and person specifications:

- [Medical Trainee role](#)
- [Scientist role](#)

Applications must be received by Monday 21 June 2021 at 5PM.

Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles

Trainees – take up an active role on the TAC! We are looking for enthusiastic trainees to join the Trainees' Advisory Committee. The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. Representatives on the TAC are responsible for raising issues on behalf of trainees in their specialty. The committee representatives are also active members of the [College's specialty committees](#), participating in discussions and informing the committee of the views of specialty trainees.

Why should I apply?

Make a difference – work with other trainees in your specialty, network with your peers, get involved with the College's work and support your professional development.

What TAC roles are available?

- Cellular Pathology Representative
- Haematology
- Immunology Representative
- Medical Virology
- Toxicology Representative
- Veterinary Microbiology Pathology Representative

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 30 June and further details about the role can be found [here](#).

Become a performance reviewer for invited reviews

We are recruiting for reviewers to undertake RCPATH invited reviews. This is a fantastic opportunity for personal development by representing the College and helping colleagues and their departments, thereby making a significant contribution to improving patient safety. Visit the [Performance reviewers for invited reviews](#) page and submit your application to professionalism@rcpath.org by 31 July 2021.

AWARDS

Percy Oliver Memorial Award – nominations closing soon

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. The category for this year's award is scientific or technical transfusion.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee for consideration by 25 June 2021 via Alison Morgan (alison.morgan@rcpath.org).

Please use the citation to describe your nominee's background, achievements and contributions to the field of blood transfusion in no more than 750 words.

REGIONAL SYMPOSIA

Wales Symposium 2021 (4 CPD credits)

Wednesday 9 June 2021 (1.30pm–5pm)

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in 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 also hear from the President, Dr Mike Osborn, and find out about the College's work in Wales. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President. Attendance at the symposium is free! Further information and registration for the event are available via the [Wales Symposium 2021 webpage](#).

Scotland Symposium 2021

Friday 8 October

Please save the date for this event. Further information will follow in the following months.

Regional surgeries in England

The College's Regional Representatives on the College Council are introducing 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 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. The surgeries have been planned to be held before the 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 dates for surgeries are as follows:

- **London surgery:** 3 June 2021, 2pm – *led by Dr Rachael Liebmann, English Regional Representative to Council (London)*
- **South of England surgery:** 17 August, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi, English Regional Representative of College Council (South)*
- **North of England surgery:** 19 August, 12.30–2pm – *led by Dr Ali Robb, English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)*
- **Midland and East of England surgery:** date and time to be confirmed – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali, English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)*

PROMOTING PATHOLOGY

Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize 2021 – closing on Friday 11 June

Do you know a Foundation doctor? If yes, please encourage them to enter this year's Foundation essay prize. This is an excellent opportunity for FY1/FY2 doctors to explore the importance of pathology and boost their CVs ahead of applying for specialty training.

RCPATH Book Club featuring The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

We're excited to announce that Jeri and David Lacks will be taking part in the next RCPATH Book Club on Monday 21 June. Join us to find out how their grandmother, Henrietta Lacks, has contributed to scientific advancement through HeLa cells.

Get creative with our Art of Pathology Competition

We're inviting entrants of all ages from the UK and abroad to interpret this year's theme, 'All Together Now', using any artistic medium of choice. The winner from each of the three age categories will receive £50 and have their artwork published online and in the Bulletin.

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts – virtual event

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021

CPD credits: 10

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 exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched by a growth in 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.

RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation & Undergraduate Taster Event 2021

Wednesday 23 June 2021

The joint RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation Taster Event 2021, is an exciting opportunity for you to explore pathology and see what the career has to offer! This virtual programme will be delivered with a mixture of specialty-specific soundbite videos from a variety of consultants and trainees (sent to attendees a few days before the meeting), followed by a live virtual session held Wednesday, 23 June at 7pm via Zoom (approximately 1.5 hours). And it is free to register!

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore:

- what pathology actually is and why it is important
- what the training involves
- the variety of opportunities that are available for trainees to pursue, e.g. teaching, molecular and digital pathology
- advice about the application process and how to be successful at the interview
- how to pursue academic and research opportunities in pathology.

Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass – Addressing Challenges in Diagnostic Breast Pathology – EXTERNAL EVENT

Friday 16 July 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:

- benign mimics of malignancy in the breast
- diagnosis of rare breast carcinomas and pitfalls
- metastatic carcinomas (in-breast metastasis and metastatic breast cancer)
- vascular lesions of the breast
- novel immunohistochemical markers in breast pathology
- digital pathology of breast disease: primary diagnosis and EQA performance
- approaches to diagnosis microscopy workshops
- meet the experts.

Undergraduate Pathology Summer School – Virtual Event

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 August 2021

This annual event held every August is open to medical students in any year of training, offering the opportunity to find out about the wide range of pathology specialities through a mixture of lectures and small-group interactive breakout sessions. This free two-day course will give you a chance to talk to current trainees and established consultants about their careers. This is not a revision course but a chance to learn more about the role of pathology in healthcare, including current research and future advances. The content will be relevant whether you are considering a career in pathology or not; all doctors use pathology services and benefit from a greater understanding of the speciality.

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](#)

Friday 9 July 2021

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Friday 24 September 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

The Association of LGBTQ+ doctors and dentists (GLADD)

GLADD is promoting a review of LGBTQ+ health inequalities teaching. Examples of formal teaching about LGBTQ+ health inequality, aimed at healthcare professionals at undergraduate and postgraduate level, are sought. If anyone has any information or experience please contact catherine.meads@aru.ac.uk.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

2 June 2021

Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Virtual Conference

2 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 1

9 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 2

9 June 2021

Pathology Grand Round Lecture, Sponsored by the Jean Shanks Foundation & The Pathological Society

14-18 June 2021

UKMEDLAB21

16 June 2021

London GI pathology update session 3

17-18 June 2021

Adult Cardiovascular Pathology

18 June 2021

Topics in Infection 2021

21-25 June 2021

[IAOP meeting 2021 \(online meeting\)](#)

23 June 2021

Webinar: Antimicrobial stewardship in the management of COVID-19 to reduce the impact on antimicrobial resistance

25 June 2021

Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies

5 July 2021

The British Society for Dermatopathology's 8th Annual Virtual Self-Assessment Course 2021

7 July 2021

Webinar: Haemato-oncology Bacterial Infections

6-8 July 2021

Manchester Pathology 2021, 13th Joint Meeting of the BDIAP and The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

4-9 September 2021

Live On-line Diagnostic Dermatopathology course

4-9 September 2021; then 2 hours every Saturday 10am-12pm up to 30+ hours

- For more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz:

hendmahfouz21@gmail.com

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

