



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – April 2023



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President's Message

Junior doctors' industrial action – update

The College has endorsed the [statement from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#) urging all parties to engage with an independent organisation to facilitate a swift resolution for the sake of patients.

The College has published a [statement](#) on the industrial action by junior doctors in England.

While the College is not a trade union and cannot get involved in negotiating terms and conditions of employment, we do have a duty to maintain standards for the benefit of patients.

Membership Engagement Tour

The first stage of my membership engagement tour is complete and we are now looking at your feedback. We have heard from trainees, members and Fellows from our specialties, and common themes are emerging. Recruitment and retention challenges were a major concern, as were workload and how resources are allocated. [The April Bulletin](#) includes more information and data about the tour.

We will be using this data to shape our work to your needs and to inform our advocacy priorities. Look out for further updates in the newsletter and our website.

RCPath Workforce Survey 2023

The College's workforce survey will give us the core data we need to build a clear picture of workforce capacity and demand which, in turn, will inform the insights and intelligence that underpins our advocacy work.

The survey has been sent to Clinical Directors and covers workload, staffing, vacancies, locum cover and the working environment.

We know that many of you, including those working in cellular pathology and clinical biochemistry/chemical pathology, will have submitted similar data to NHS bodies recently. If this is the case for your department and you have recently sent NHS England and Improvement your data, you can submit this to us. We will work with you to collate your data and get back to you to ask for any additional information we may need. You can find further information on our [website](#).

We are also aware of the current workforce pressures and know these have been intensified by the recent junior doctors' strikes. We are therefore extending the deadline for **completion of the survey to Friday 26 May**.

If you have any queries regarding the survey, please contact workforce@rcpath.org.

Bowel Cancer All Party Parliamentary Group

It was fantastic to meet Ben Lake MP, Chair of the Bowel Cancer All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), together with MPs Rebecca Long-Bailey and Gerald Jones, who are on the committee.

The APPG held a meeting to mark [Bowel Cancer Awareness Month](#). We had good discussion on the need to support pathology, radiology and diagnostics.

They were also particularly interested in cancer services and the integral role of pathology.

Other engagement with parliamentarians and stakeholders

- Humza Yousaf MSP has been appointed as First Minister of Scotland. We have written to him to congratulate him and highlight the issues facing pathologists. The new Health Minister is Michael Matheson who we have also written to, requesting a meeting.
- Along with 80 other organisations, we signed a [statement co-ordinated by National Voices](#), a coalition of health and social care charities, regarding the prolonged and intense workforce pressures facing health and social care. The statement urges government to take immediate and urgent action including the publication of the long-awaited NHS Workforce Plan.
- We were pleased to join the Royal College of Emergency Medicine at their Emergency Care Summit in the House of Lords to discuss how to tackle the emergency care crisis. Panellists listed a number of priorities: workforce, retention, investment in planning and capacity, social care, ensuring NHS 111 can refer patients to the right service, and patients with mental health needs.

GMC national training survey

The General Medical Council's (GMC) 2023 national training survey is open until 4 May.

The survey gives trainees and trainers the opportunity to share their views of postgraduate training in the UK.

As a medical royal college, we will also review the data to check that trainees are receiving high-quality training and that trainers are supported in their roles. This year's survey also includes new questions that will help the GMC to better understand the impact discrimination and unprofessional behaviours have on training environments. Visit [GMC Training](#)

[Survey.](#)

National Pathology Week

Join past College President, Dr Suzy Lishman, for her fascinating Living Autopsy event At Surgeons' Hall Museum in Edinburgh on 17 June. The event was a sell-out last year so [book your ticket](#) soon. The event is running in anticipation of [National Pathology Week 2023](#), which starts on 19 June.

A dessert fit for a King

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jason Smith, Head Chef at [Events at No 6](#), which oversees our external conferences and events programme at the College's building at 6 Alie Street. Anyone who has experienced the excellent catering when visiting Alie Street has Jason to thank.

Jason was competing in Vacherin's competition for a dessert 'Fit for a King', which was created to celebrate the upcoming coronation of King Charles III and showcase the pastry skills of [Vacherin's](#) chefs.

I am delighted to say that Jason came first in the technical skills category for his dessert and was runner up in the overall competition. You can see Jason's fantastic deserts [here](#).

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A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at
[RCPath newsletters](#)

Working for members

Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prize

The College administers the Professor Freddie Flynn Bursary Prizes, which award up to five bursary prizes of up to £750 for trainees to attend the [Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine's](#) annual focus meeting ([MedLab23](#)).

Applicants are accepted from medical or clinical scientist trainees on recognised UK training programmes in either laboratory or clinical aspects of clinical biochemistry/chemical pathology. Details and application forms are available on the [College website](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 5 May 2023.

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal continues to develop including updates to allow faster processing of whole slide images, allowing a range of high-quality slides, including z-stacked images to be viewed and studied.

Work is taking place to upload haematology teaching slides and the haematology team is working collectively on addressing gaps in content.

There has been an excellent donation of endoscopy videos from an expert in Ukraine, and some pathology of these from his histopathology colleague, [to support training in bowel screening](#).

Several new editors have been welcomed to the team to support the next phase of clinical biochemistry as well as paediatric and perinatal pathology content.

Please continue to feedback and if you have any questions or feel you might have content that is suitable for the Pathology Portal, you can get in touch with the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org.

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

The College's Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) is inviting nominations for this year's [Percy Oliver Memorial Award](#).

The Memorial Award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year's category is TM Nursing.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the SAC for consideration by 5pm Wednesday 31 May 2023 via Louise Mair at the Royal College of Pathologists (louise.mair@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; furthermore, please demonstrate the impact that they have made to the field.

College Antimicrobial Resistance Webinar

Thank you to all who joined our Antimicrobial Resistance webinar in November 2022. The webinar recording is now available on the [College website](#).

CPD Submission

Your CPD submission deadline for 2022/2023 is 30 September 2023. To submit your return please go to www.rcpath.org.

If you have any queries, please contact the Member Engagement and Support Team on 020 7451 6720 or by email at: cpd@rcpath.org.

LEPT instructional videos

There are a range of instructional videos as aids on how to navigate around the new LEPT system most effectively. From the [College website](#), LEPT users can log into the new LEPT system and access the video links for trainees and non-trainees. The video links are in the Alerts section on the LEPT homepage.

The LEPT system – Chemical Pathology, Oral Maxillofacial Pathology Training and Cellular Pathology

Trainees in the above specialties who have moved from the old LEPT system to the new LEPT system will soon have their training items migrated across too. Watch this space!

Public Engagement

[Apply for funding for your pathology-themed public events](#)

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers the chance to get up to £1,000 for your public events and activities. Apply using the form [on our website](#) by 1 July. Read about past recipients for inspiration [here](#).

National Pathology Week Pathology Quizzes for Undergraduates

We're running our popular 'Virtual Pathology Pub Quiz' events for undergraduates during [National Pathology Week 2023](#). Please share these event booking links with undergraduates studying relevant courses:

- [Virtual Pathology 'Pub Quiz' for Medical and Biomedical Undergraduates – 21 June](#)
- [Virtual Veterinary Pathology 'Pub Quiz' for Veterinary Undergraduates – 23 June](#)

[It's time to get creative – our 2023 Art of Pathology Competition is now open](#)

The competition is kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and it is open to adults and children in the UK and abroad. This year's theme is 'Pathologists and Patients' and you could win up to £1,000! Find out more at on the [competition webpage](#).

Spread the word about our essay and science communication prizes

The Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize closes on 9 May. The winner will be awarded £250, have their essay published on our website and in the College magazine, The *Bulletin*, and will also be presented with a certificate at an RCPATH event. Find out more on our [essay competitions webpage](#).

The RCPATH Science Communication Prize is kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and is given to a pathology trainee, Foundation doctor or undergraduate who has shown excellence in their science communication activities. Entries should be submitted to publicengagement@rcpath.org by Monday 17 July 2023. Winners will receive £500 and be invited to accept their prize at the College's New Fellow's Ceremony. Find out more at www.rcpath.org/scicommprize.

Get involved at the College

Clinical Director of Publishing and Engagement

We have a vacancy in the Communications Directorates that offers a College Fellow the opportunity to get involved in a number of exciting areas of work.

The Clinical Director of Publishing and Engagement provides clinical advice on the development of new public engagement activities and supports the delivery of events. As Bulletin Editor, they take an overview of and shape the Bulletin content and theme, commissioning articles and liaising with contributors. For more information and to apply visit the [College website](#).

International

College membership engagement in the United Arab Emirates

A team of College representatives based in the UK, Middle East and South East Asia, including Professor Angharad Davies, Vice President for Learning, and College staff, hosted an exhibition stand and delivered talks at one of the biggest medical conferences in the world, Medlab Middle East. They participated in other activities to engage with the membership in the MENA region in February. Read our news story to [find out more](#).

International partners and collaborators

Strong global coalitions can strengthen and improve opportunities to pool knowledge and resources in pathology. Facilitating the sharing and acquiring of pathology knowledge and skills is vital to the College's international work, part of which is aimed at promoting capacity and building to improve pathology provision in predominantly resource-limited countries.

A new webpage shows how international memorandums of understandings the College has with organisations worldwide helps to facilitate this. Learn more [here](#).

[A new International Strategy for the College](#)

This month sees the launch of the College's new international strategy, Pathology is Global, which will build on the success of the previous two strategies. Find out about the [5 main strategic objectives that will shape our international work until 2026](#).

Opportunities to deliver lectures for an RCPATH international project

In collaboration with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, and in conjunction with the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) Ghana Workforce Health Partnership, the International team is producing a series of pre-recorded lectures on topics across chemical pathology, haematology,

histopathology (anatomical pathology) and microbiology, and are looking for volunteers to deliver lectures.

Please contact international@rcpath.org to express your interest in delivering one of the following topics:

- proteomic and metabolomic techniques
- diagnosis and management of candidemia
- current antibiotic management of multi-drug resistant Gram-negative bloodstream infections
- fever of unknown origin
- systemic infection syndromes presenting with rash
- gene therapy in sickle cell disease
- recent advances in lymphoma pathology and diagnosis
- clinical research.

Regional news

RCPath Northern Ireland Symposium 2023 (3 CPD points)

Symposium to be held on 25 May 2023 in Belfast.

This symposium is aimed at RCPath Fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will also hear from the President Professor Mike Osborn and find out about the College's work in Northern Ireland.

This is a free event, but formal registration is required. The Symposium will be taking place in the morning between 9.30am-1pm.

The event will be held in person only at Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

Wales Symposium 2023 – SAVE THE DATE!

Symposium to be held on 19 July 2023 – to be held online.

Regional Surgeries (England)

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:

South of England surgery: Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 1pm-2.30pm – 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)

London surgery: date to be confirmed – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann (rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (London)

North of England surgery: Friday 19 May 2023 at 12.30-2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb (ali.robbs@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)

New publications

Members' Guide to the College

The College's introductory guide explains the workings of the College to new trainees, Fellows, Council members, staff and Honorary Officers. To download the guide, [log into your MyRCPath account](#).

New clinical guideline

G190 Dataset for the histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous lymphoma has been published on the [College website](#).

The April Bulletin

[Read the April Bulletin](#) to find out more about the 'Science behind the cure'. This issue showcases the meaningful progress that has been made across the pathology specialties.

College conferences and symposia

New Consultants' Day – Hybrid event

3 May 2023

6 CPD Credits

The New Consultants' Day is an event to help and support recently appointed consultants, or those 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, set up new services and how best to deal with complaints. Delegates will also learn more about appraisal, revalidation and job planning (parallel session for medically trained pathologists) and the experiences of consultant clinical scientists (parallel session for clinical scientists). This event 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.

Digital Pathology Symposium – The Role of Digital Pathology in Training and Beyond – Hybrid Event

15 June 2023

6 CPD Credits

This hybrid symposium will provide a complete overview of the role of digital pathology (DP) in training and beyond. It will explore a broad range of topics including:

- the process of integrating DP into a working pathology department and the role it plays for both trainees and consultants involved in training, including tips and tricks learned from real-life experiences

- the benefits of DP in teaching and revision and the future of RCPATH examinations in the digital era.
- an overview to demystify artificial intelligence and review how this can help support pathologists both now and in the future.
- additional topics surrounding DP such as ethical and environmental considerations.

The symposium is open to all practicing pathologists. It will be of particular interest to histopathology trainees and consultants involved in training (including educational supervisors and training programme directors).

This event will be an excellent primer for those embarking on their digital pathology journey whilst providing valuable insights for pathologists already in the process of using DP.

We are delighted to offer 60 free spaces for in-person trainee delegates. These spaces are available to the first 60 trainee applicants so early registration is advised.

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. 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 – In Person

Wednesday 14 June 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical Examiner training – Virtual

Thursday 21 September 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical Examiner Training - Virtual (rcpath.org)

Wednesday 6 December 2023

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

Thursday 29 June 2023

6 CPD credits

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Friday 15 September

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Wednesday 15 November

CPD credits: 6

News from external organisations

The John Maddox prize – nominate a researcher

The John Maddox prize is a joint initiative of the charity Sense about Science and the leading international scientific journal *Nature*. The prize has been awarded annually since 2012 to individuals who have shown courage and integrity in standing up for sound science and evidence. In addition to the main award, there is an additional prize for an individual considered to be at an early career stage. To find out more and how to nominate visit: [John Maddox prize](#). Closing date 1 May.

Other external events of interest

26–28 April 2023

[21st BTOG Annual Conference 2023](#)

27 April 2023

Which drug interactions do I really worry about for my patients needing mould-active antifungals? – For more information, please contact: khavriliak@globalhmc.com

02–05 May 2023

[NTW'23 virtual conference](#)

03 May 2023

[27th London Lymphoma Forum](#)

09–10 May 2023

[British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Prostate Pathology Course](#)

10 May 2023

[Transplant and Cell Therapy Updates for 2023](#)

10 May 2023

[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies & What's new for 2023](#)

11 May 2023

[Haematological Malignancies Update Day](#)

12 May 2023

[ITP Update Day](#)

16–17 May 2023

[BIA 25th Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting and Spring Trainee Day](#)

17 May 2023

[BSBMTCT Scientific Day](#)

17 May 2023

[Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Conference 2023](#)

[18–19 May 2023](#)

[Edinburgh Haematopathology Tutorial](#)

[18–19 May 2023](#)

[BSAC Spring Conference 2023: Addressing the AMR burden in everyday practice](#)

[23–24 May 2023](#)

[Non Operative Breast Pathology Update Course](#)

24 May 2023

[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies “What's new for 2023”](#)

24 May 2023

[4th AML Mini Academy](#)

26–29 June

[How to design and deliver pathogen genomics training for health and research professionals](#)

01–02 June 2023

[London GI Pathology Update](#)

13–14 June 2023

[UKMedLab23](#)

14 June 2023

[BSAC The Challenge of Urinary Tract Infections](#)

15–16 June 2023

[Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes Course 2023](#)

[23 June 2023](#)

[The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

[27–29 June 2023](#)

[Liverpool Pathology 2023](#)

[28–29 June 2023](#)

[Haematology Highlights for the UK](#)

[29 June 2023](#)

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference](#)

[29 June 2023](#)

[BSBMTCT Scientific Showcase: Advanced Cellular Therapy](#)

[20 July 2023](#)

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass - online](#)

[25–27 August 2023](#)

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

[09–10 September 2023](#)

[4th ILROG Educational Conference: Radiotherapy in Modern Management of Haematological Malignancies](#)

RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)