



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

Newsletter from Professor Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – December 2021

President's Message of the Month

RCPATH Achievement Award winners 2021

I was delighted to congratulate the 2021 RCPATH Achievement Award Winners at the College's Council meeting in November.

This year's winners exemplify the best of pathology practice through their work in furthering pathology education, improving patient safety and the innovation of new diagnostics and treatments – all for the benefit of patients. To achieve this throughout a global pandemic is truly inspiring.

The awards celebrate excellence in pathology practice and promote high standards in pathology education, training and research to deliver the best patient care.

College Research Medal winners

Supporting the next generation of pathologists is an important component of the College's work. Our Trainees' Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training.

Congratulations to the winners for their outstanding contribution to pathology research.

Medals are assessed for:

- potential benefits to the public and patients
- impact on the field
- contribution of the individual to the paper.

The College received an exceptionally high standard of applications for the 2020 medals. Thank you to everyone who applied.

Annual General Meeting and new Trustees

The College's 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 18 November and the Annual Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts, Balance Sheet and Auditors' Report were presented.

The formal terms of office began for new appointees at the AGM, including new Honorary Officers and Trustees. I am delighted to welcome the appointment of the following Trustees:

- Dr Stephen Morley was confirmed as Assistant Registrar (previously held by Dr Esther Youd)

- Dr Gareth McKeeman was confirmed as Chair of Northern Ireland Regional Council (previously held by Professor Ken Mills)
- Dr Anita Hill and Dr Elijah Matovu were both confirmed in roles as co-opted Trustees as part of the work to provide more diversity across the Trustee Board.

Details of the [Trustee Board](#) are on the website.

I was also pleased to have the opportunity to thank Dr Youd and Professor Mills for their service and commitment in carrying the responsibilities as Trustees as well as for the roles as Assistant Registrar and Chair of Northern Ireland Regional Council, respectively. Their contributions have been much appreciated.

On the agenda

- I had an excellent meeting with [Lord Kamall](#), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences). We discussed issues in pathology, including how we can work together to deal with the cancer backlog, support the genomics roll out and improve patient care. I am keeping in contact with Lord Kamall to take forward the many suggestions and plans that we discussed at the meeting.
- Dr Jonathan Kell, Chair of the Wales Regional Council, had a productive meeting with Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services in Wales, discussing workforce, cancer, technology and scientists, among other areas.

Following the meeting, we were pleased to receive a letter from the Minister to Dr Kell expressing her concerns about waiting lists and highlighting the importance of having the right workforce for delivery and that new approaches, such as AI, machine-augmented reporting and polyclinics, can help speed up diagnosis and reduce delays.

- We were very pleased to see that Northern Ireland [Health Minister Robin Swann](#) marked [International Pathology Day](#) by stating his commitment to delivering a modern, sustainable, world-class pathology service in Northern Ireland.

The Minister said: 'Pathology services are critical to our health service and the dedication and hard work of our regional pathology workforce in Northern Ireland is second to none.' We will be liaising with the Minister to request a meeting.

- We have signed up to the statement from [the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#) on the merger of HEE, NHSX and NHSD into NHS England/Improvement. While we recognise there may be opportunities in the proposed merger, we are concerned that the independent and authoritative voice on NHS workforce issues may be lost.
- November was Lung Cancer Awareness Month and we supported the [Roy Castle Lung Foundation](#) campaign which focused on spotting subtle changes in our health. The pathology workforce plays a vital role in cancer diagnostics and treatment and we highlighted the need for investment in this area.

- The College and the Transfusion Medicine SAC responded to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia report '[No One's Listening](#)' following their inquiry into avoidable deaths and failures of care for sickle cell patients. [We endorsed the recommendations](#) and welcomed the call for urgent action to ensure sickle cell patients receive care at a standard to which they are entitled.

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

New – Pathologists in Profile podcast series

The College has launched a new podcast series, [Pathologists in Profile](#), sponsored by [Cirdan](#). Hosted by histopathology trainee, Natasha Cutmore, the podcast series will feature interviews with pathologists from across the 17 pathology specialties.

The two pilot episodes released on 5 November feature Consultant Histopathologist and the College's Vice President (Communications), Professor Sarah Coupland. From January 2022, we'll be releasing two episodes each month, each featuring our guest speaker for the month.

New subscription feature for the College website

In January 2022, we will be launching a new feature on our website that will affect members whose subscriptions are overdue. If your subscription becomes overdue by 120 days or more, your access to specific member areas of the website will be restricted. The areas that will be affected include our online CPD portfolio, access to the LEPT system, access to restricted documents including committee minutes, the *Bulletin* and the member handbook, and discounted rates when booking events. Access will be reinstated once the subscription is paid in full.

Members whose subscriptions are overdue will receive reminders to renew when logging into the website as well as email reminders at 90 and 120 days' overdue. If you need assistance with renewing your subscription fees, please contact the [Membership team](#).

Diamond Jubilee – celebrating 60 years of the College

The College was founded on 21 June 1962. In 2022, we're marking our Diamond Jubilee with a year of events and activities. College-led activities include: a monthly podcast series; cycle, run and walking 'virtual challenges'; a bespoke College Land's End–John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle tour; a classical concert in Liverpool; named lectures covering a broad range of pathology topics in all nations; an Open Day at the College building in London; various other outreach activities, including a UK tour of

Suzy Lishman's 'Living Autopsy', an installation at the National Eisteddfod, and the President's Pet Photo Competition.

Members are encouraged to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with their own events – there are lots of activity ideas, materials and resources available on our [resources pages](#) and more will be added soon.

Diamond Jubilee event – calling all cyclists!

As part of the celebrations next year, the College is organising both a bespoke physical Lands' End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle ride and virtual cycling challenges!

The physical event is being organised by Cycle Retreats together with CRUK.

- The dates are September 13–24 September.

We need to know numbers for the LEJOG ride in advance. If you are interested, please contact Professor Sarah Coupland, ASAP on s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk.

[You can download the flyer here.](#)

Please note that virtual challenges are also being organised throughout next year, including a virtual LEJOG, a West Wales Walk, and others. Stay tuned and become involved!

The Bulletin

[The College Bulletin's](#) Diamond Jubilee issues will have a different format from our usual issues and we hope to feature all our specialties through an array of articles. If you have a suggestion for an article related to your specialty, please get in touch with us by emailing Publishing@rcpath.org.

GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

Virology Recruitment Lead: The College is advertising the opportunity to become the next [Virology Recruitment Lead](#). Information about this important role, including a role description and person specification are on the College website with a closing date of Monday 17 January. If you are interested in the role or have any questions, please contact Joanne Brinklow (joanne.brinklow@rcpath.org) in the first instance.

Lead for Undergraduate Pathology Education: The College is looking for an Undergraduate Pathology Education Lead to work with the Vice-President for Learning and others to lead and coordinate the College's undergraduate education activities and support the College's provision for Foundation doctors. This is an exciting opportunity to build on the existing work of the College over the past few years. Further information and a role description is available on the [College website](#): The closing date is Friday 21 January. If you are interested in the role or have any questions, please contact Joanne Brinklow (joanne.brinklow@rcpath.org) in the first instance.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Annual report

The [2020–2021 annual report](#) is now available online. It is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the College and our members over the past year. This year has provided a great number of challenges, but we have continued to deliver on our commitments and fostered new ways of working.

In this annual report you can read more about our activities both in the UK and internationally, as well as our efforts to engage and influence both the public and key political stakeholders.

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 fourth document in our series has recently been published and provides recommendations for [how medical examiners can facilitate organ and tissue donation](#).

PROMOTING PATHOLOGY

Free public engagement training for members – Spring 2022

These [free training sessions](#) are aimed at RCPATH members (of any grade). They are developed and delivered by a team of public engagement experts from the Science Museum Group. They offer the chance to develop new skills in communicating your work with diverse public audiences. There are two levels – standard and advanced. The next standard level training takes place on 12 May 2022 at the College in London – timings are approximately 9:30am to 5pm.

The dates for the next advanced training session are 27 April 2022 (5:30pm to 8pm at the Science Museum, London) and 28 April 2022 (9:30am to 5pm at the College's offices in Alie Street, London). You need to have previously attended the standard level training to book for the advanced course. You'll find more information about the training and how to book [on our website](#).

Did you take part in National Pathology Week 2021? Please fill in our short survey

Whether you ran an activity or event for this year's National Pathology Week (NPW), or if you attended an event online or in your local area, please let us know about your experience in our [quick NPW 2021 survey](#). Your feedback will help us improve what we do for the next National Pathology Week. For a round-up of this year's NPW check out our [recent news post](#). Remember that NPW 2022 takes place in June as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Make a note of the dates – 20 to 26 June 2022 and [watch this space](#) for news on what's happening.

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Joint Coroner and Medical Examiner Virtual Training Selected dates available

The relationship between Medical Examiners services and their local coroners is vitally important. 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.

- [13 Jan 2022 – Midlands](#)
- [27 Jan 2022 – East of England, South East and London](#)
- [22 Feb 2022 – North East and Yorkshire, North West](#)
- [10 Mar 2022 – South West](#)
- [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 will build on previous learning.

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.

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 15 February 2022

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](#)

Tuesday 10 February 2022

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

New COVID-19 vaccine research hub – The British Society of Immunology

The British Society for Immunology has just launched the [UK Covid Vaccine Research Hub](#) – a new website dedicated to informing and inspiring people about the work being undertaken by UK researchers on vaccines for COVID-19.

The aim of the site is to champion and celebrate the immense contribution of UK researchers to the development and understanding of the new vaccines, and to give people access to the latest evidence-based insights and expertise, in the form of news, resources and information in a wide range of formats.

Invite to participate in research into doctors' financial needs

The Research Department of Medical Education (RDME) at University College London (UCL) has been commissioned by the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (RMBF) to identify the extent of unmet financial need in the medical profession. The RMBF is a charity for doctors, medical students and their families who are in financial need due to ill-health. The research results will be used to better understand financial needs in the profession and provide recommendations so the RMBF can reach more potential beneficiaries in need. Please fill in an online survey. Participants do not need to have had any experience of financial difficulties to take part. Please [follow this link](#) for more information and to complete the questionnaire.

BMA Wellbeing support services

[BMA's Wellbeing support services](#) are available free to all doctors and medical students in the UK, regardless of BMA membership.

The services are free and confidential and include:

- 24/7 **counselling** line including a structured course of up to six sessions of therapy available over the telephone, online, and now also face to face until the end of October. This is also open to their spouses, partners and dependents aged 16–24 in full-time education.
- confidential **peer support** provided by other doctors
- a UK wellbeing support **directory** detailing various support services by geographical availability visit [sources of support page](#).

The BMA also provide a **[Doctor support service](#)**, an emotional support service specifically for any doctor undergoing a GMC investigation or facing licence withdrawal (regardless of BMA membership) – it's free, confidential and provided by fellow doctors.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

[03 December 2021](#)

[DIPC development day – Influencing others and changing behaviours](#)

[07–08 December 2021](#)

[Wegas Annual Conference 2021](#)

[23–28 January 2022](#)

[Genomics and Clinical Microbiology](#)

[25–26 January 2022](#)

[4th Joint Winter Meeting of the Pathological Society and the Royal Society of Medicine: Embracing Complexity in Modern Pathology](#)

28 January 2022

Challenges in Intensive Care – Are we winning the battle against fungal infection in the ICU patient

02–03 February 2022

Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2022 (ACC2022)

24–25 March 2022

British Association for Ophthalmic Pathology (BAOP) 2022 Annual Meeting

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

